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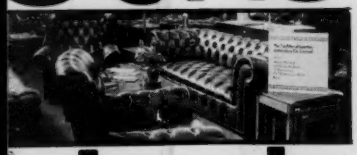

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Trade and Industry

1 December 1978

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Every week, *Trade and Industry* reports on the many UK industries represented at overseas trade fairs. This week (see page 455) we highlight the UK's major overseas trade promotion this year - the British industrial exhibition in Mexico - and a new Japanese import market.

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EEC This is your business

Part 2 Knowing your markets Supplement

Trade and Industry this week

HOME

Discretionary action on Ford settlement

Discretionary action may be taken against the Ford Motor Company following the company's agreement to a pay settlement outside the pay guidelines, the Treasury announced on Tuesday. The company has been informed accordingly.

The Treasury explained that the government had considered the pay settlement reached by the Ford Motor Company with its manual workers and that in the government's view the settlement could not be reconciled with the pay guidelines contained in the white paper 'Winning the battle against inflation' (Cmnd 7293). The government had informed the company of this and had expressed its regret.

The government had previously made it clear to the company, the Treasury statement points out, that in the event of the company reaching a settlement outside the guidelines, discretionary action against the company would need to be considered. After considering the settlement in the light of all the relevant circumstances, the government has reluctantly reached the conclusion that such action should be taken.

Discretionary action may be taken in the following way. Purchases under some existing government contracts may cease. When consideration is being given by government to the placing of future contracts, the breach of pay policy by Ford will be taken into account. This will apply also to consideration of applications from the company for financial assistance such as section 7 and 8 Industry Act loans and grants, temporary employment subsidy and export credits.

BP Chemicals gets £4.95m for Grangemouth project

BP Chemicals is to build a new chemical complex at Grangemouth in Scotland with £4.95 million assistance under the Industry Act. This was announced by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, on Monday.

The money, provided under the Industry Act selective investment scheme, will assist an investment of more than £50 million to replace outdated capacity. Assistance to BP Chemicals for the Grangemouth project was recommended by the industrial development advisory board and has the agreement of the EEC commission.

Mr Varley pointed out that this was another example of the use of the selective investment scheme to promote the modernisation projects necessary to maintain competitiveness in world markets. Such projects were central to the regeneration of UK industry which was at the heart of the Industrial Strategy. This project was expected to yield balance of payments benefits approaching £30 million per annum.

He added that while assistance was based on these general benefits, the project would additionally safeguard 100 jobs, provide 500 construction jobs and have beneficial effects on employment in supplier industries. The project showed how national investment schemes could benefit Scotland and the other assisted areas as an alternative to regional selective assistance for capital-intensive projects.

The selective investment scheme, which operates under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972, is designed to promote major new investment projects which would otherwise not proceed at all, or on the timescale or physical scale proposed, and result in an improvement in company performance yielding significant benefits to the economy.

Assistance is negotiated as the minimum necessary. To date, assistance of nearly £74 million has been approved for 108 projects costing nearly £740 million.

Government Chemist turns to cigarette hazard

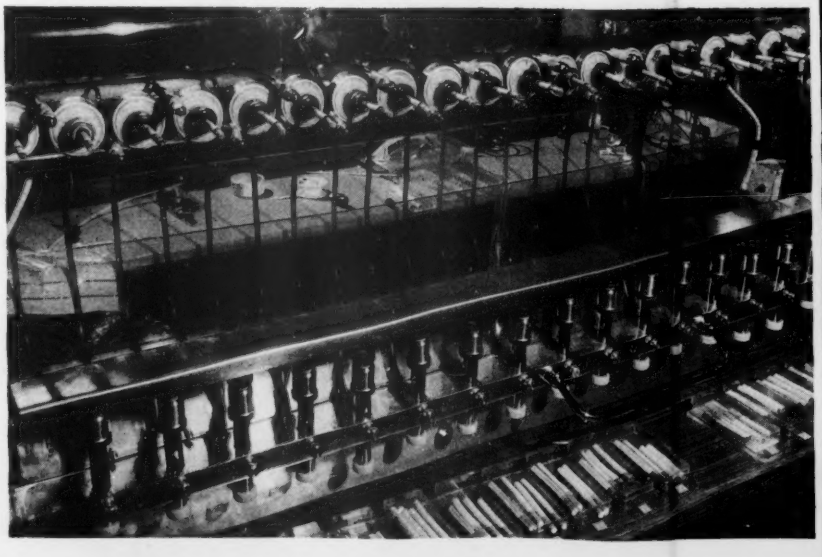
Adoption of the EEC system of tobacco taxation has led to a change in role for the Government Chemist. The emphasis is now on the health aspects of cigarette smoking involving the measurement of tar and nicotine yields.

This work, and other activities relating to hazards in the home and safety of food, are reviewed in the 'Report of the Government Chemist 1977', published on Thursday (HMSO, £3.00).

For the past 90 years, one of the Laboratory of the Government Chemist's major tasks has been to determine the moisture content of tens of thousands of tobacco samples each year to ensure that the correct amount of duty was collected. Now, with the adoption of an EEC system of taxation based on the 'end-product' instead of unmanufactured tobacco, this feature of the laboratory's work has ended. In its place, attention is turning increasingly to the health aspects of cigarette smoking.

Yields of tar and nicotine from cigarette smoke have been determined regularly since 1973 and to cope with the increased number of brands on the market, the whole test programme is being automated. More flexible data-processing facilities now give the analyst greater control over the actual tests. Completion of this programme will allow the labora-

In mid-puff: the laboratory's Filtona 20-channel smoking machine.



tory to undertake extra work connected with the new health-related taxation of cigarettes, with a minimal increase in manpower.

Advice is provided to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection on chemical hazards associated with the use of domestic articles. Examples recently investigated include non-stick cooking ware, felt-tipped pens, novelty lamps and pressurised cork extractors. Surveys were carried out on imported pencils and paint brushes and on glazed ceramic ware to confirm that the levels of extractable toxic metals were within existing or proposed limits. An increasing amount of effort has been devoted to the evaluation of analytical methods for use with the EEC directive on cosmetic products.

The laboratory's monitoring – for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food – of the amounts of organochlorine and organophosphorus pesticides in the average diet of the population of the United Kingdom indicates that levels are generally low and declining. Further work is reported on the analysis of margarines and cooking fats for erucic acid. Samples purchased in the UK and three other countries have been examined by the combined thin-layer/gas-liquid chromatographic method developed in the laboratory. All contained less than the maximum that will be permitted by legislation from 1 July 1979.

Combat report on 'Christos Bitas' pollution

The fight to combat the oil pollution risk from the tanker *Christos Bitas* is described in a report published on Monday, by the Department of Trade. The report chronicles the two-and-a-half week effort that involved one of the biggest operations successfully conducted at sea to pump out oil from a damaged tanker to receiving tankers.

Christos Bitas, with a cargo of 35 020 tons of heavy Iranian crude oil, was damaged off the coast of south Wales on 12 October while sailing from Rotterdam to Belfast. Over the next week, about 31600 tons of cargo were successfully pumped off the stricken tanker, often under very difficult conditions.

The report seeks to answer some of the questions raised during the handling of the incident such as why the oil was not burnt by bombing or other means.

The handling of the *Christos Bitas* incident was a good illustration of the need for speed in activating the contingency plans and for planning ahead with alternative options, says the report. The lessons to be learned will form part of the wider review which the department has been conducting into its contingency measures for dealing with oil pollution incidents at sea. The results of these studies, which cover command, control and communications; salvage and salvage equipment; resources and research and development; and liability and compensation, will be available shortly.

Copies of the report are available from Marine Library, Sunley House, 90-93 High Holborn, London WC1, tel. 01-405 6911 ext 331.

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Trade and Industry
Eighth Floor
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

Telephone and telex numbers are unchanged

Constant review of safety precautions needed

If health and safety precautions were to be more than a paper exercise, it was imperative that employers should constantly review the effectiveness of their arrangements and change them in the light of experience, said Minister of State for Employment Harold Walker on Monday.

Addressing a joint conference of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (Rospa) and the British Safety Council in London, Mr Walker said that laws alone could not prevent death and injury at work.

'Whatever legislation we pass will always be dependent for its effectiveness on the spirit, will and determination of those responsible for its implementation,' he said. This applied not only to the Health and Safety Executive, but also the millions of people involved – management and workers alike.

The recent health and safety regulations, which gave unions the statutory right to appoint safety representatives and safety committees in the workplace, marked a vital step forward.

EUROPE

Luxembourg PM visits London . . .

Luxembourg's Prime Minister Gaston Thorn addressed a meeting of the Great Britain and Europe Society during his visit to London from Tuesday to Thursday. Prime Minister Jim Callaghan was host at a dinner for Mr Thorn on Tuesday.

. . . and Eire premier in London for talks

Eire Prime Minister Jack Lynch visited London on Monday for talks with the British premier Jim Callaghan. The two leaders discussed the European monetary system and other community issues.

OVERSEAS

Thai-UK investment treaty signed

Dr Upadit (left) with trade secretary John Smith.

Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Upadit Pachariyangkun, signed an investment promotion and protection agreement with Lord Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on Tuesday.

Dr Upadit was on a four-day visit to the UK following the meeting of EEC and the Association of South-east Asian Nations in Brussels last week. He left the UK yesterday (30 November).

The agreement, the sixth in a series signed by the UK with developing and less-developed countries, is to promote overseas investment in Thailand and to provide a flow of financial resources to the country. It provides a legal framework which pledges the country to give overseas investment fair and equitable treatment. Agreements have already been signed with Singapore, South Korea, Romania and Indonesia. Negotiations are in hand with a further five countries.

While in the UK, Dr Upadit met a number of UK ministers including trade secretary John Smith and energy secretary Tony Benn.

Dutch industrialists visit Britain

A group of Dutch industrialists and bankers arrived in the UK on Tuesday for a four-day visit at the invitation of Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. The mission was arranged to promote Anglo-Dutch collaboration and to encourage its members to consider investing in the UK.

The visitors met the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the secretaries of state for energy and industry. Discussion also took place with the governor of the Bank of England, the chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, and the presidents of the TUC and CBI.

Chairmen and Managing Directors

The following executives are seeking to further their careers within fields where proven experience counts and is rewarded accordingly

FINANCE

1. **Accountant.** BComm ACA. A positive and likeable man with international analysis and financial management experience especially in the brewing, banking and hotel industries. Location very flexible.
Age 26 Salary circa £8,000

2. **Corporate Planner.** BSc (Eng) MSc with Merchant Banking and financial services experience, particularly relating to acquisitions and investigations. Wishes to move to head office of major group. A good oarsman.
Age 29 Salary £9,000

3. **Finance Director.** ACCA. A mature and highly successful F/D of a manufacturing subsidiary (T.O. £5m) of a major industrial group. Promotion blockage, seeking greater responsibility and further career development.
Age 30 Salary £10,000+

4. **Treasurer/Foreign Exchange Manager.** A banking executive with four years experience in the Far East in cash management and foreign exchange. Seeking greater responsibility with a large international bank or industrial group – location very flexible.
Age 32 Salary £15,000 (UK)

5. **Finance Controller.** ACA J Dip MA. A successful financial manager with considerable company reconstruction experience in both the service and manufacturing industries. Promotion blockage and seeking further career development and greater responsibility.
Age 30 Salary circa £14,000

6. **Finance Director.** ACA BSc (business admin). His unusually wide knowledge includes industrial financial management, commodities and top level international financial consultancy. Wishes to further his career in industry.
Age 35 Salary £12,000

7. **Financial Controller.** ACMA. His strong technical cost accounting background includes computer auditing and developing new systems. Wishes to re-establish a UK career for family reasons after 10 years in Canada. Location flexible for career opportunity.
Age 35 Salary £10,000+

8. **Financial Manager.** ACCA ACMA ACIS. Highly intelligent with financial management and analytical experience in major international manufacturing groups and consultancies. Seeking further responsibility in line management.
Age 36 Salary £13,000+

9. **Group F/D.** ACCA. Good Italian. A particularly able senior executive with large diversified manufacturing group and service industry experience. Sound technical and practical experience of treasury and financial management systems.
Age 34 Salary £15,000

10. **Finance Director.** BA. Fluent German and French. His impressive career covers a wide range of manufactured products and services in a large international group. Seeks a UK base for family educational reasons.
Age 33 Salary circa £17,000

11. **International Financial Manager.** ACCA. Good French. Outstanding career in multiple and departmental store management (T.O. £160m). Imaginative, impressive and underpaid.
Age 47 Salary £12,500+

12. **Group Controller.** FCA. His wide international experience includes both manufacturing and retail distribution (500 outlets). A modest and likeable man seeking further career development.
Age 45 Salary £14,000+

MARKETING

13. **Sales Manager.** Highly successful young sales executive in fast-moving consumer goods and durables. Now seeks long term career development.
Age 29 Salary £9,000

14. **Export Area Manager.** BA (Hons). Fluent French. With a thorough understanding of export marketing matters, especially consumer products to Africa. Seeking greater responsibility in Europe and the developing countries.
Age 26 Salary £7,500

15. **Export Sales Manager.** Fluent German, French, Italian and Spanish. An impressive exporter covering a wide range of capital equipment and plastic products worldwide. A first class salesman seeking greater responsibility and a better product range.
Age 34 Salary £10,000

16. **Regional Manager.** BSc (Eng) 1st Class Hons M Inst Mkt. Fluent German some Russian, French and Italian. Experience covers engineering manufactured products such as pumps and mining equipment especially to German speaking area and Comecon. Seeking more enterprising company.
Age 46 Salary £14,000

17. **Marketing Manager.** Fluent German. A most impressive senior executive with excellent record in multinational container shipping company. A high flyer who wishes to develop his career further.
Age 29 Salary £20,000

18. **Commercial Manager.** BSc (Econ). With substantial experience of the building services industry including recruiting and activating a sales force and the provision of cleaning security and maintenance services. Has a good knowledge of business in both the Middle East and America.
Age 27 Salary £8,000

19. **Marketing Manager.** With impressive international experience in high technology products. has strong sales and some production experience in large international group. Seeks greater responsibility in new products or with a smaller company.
Age 37 Salary £14,000

20. **Commercial Manager.** BA (Mod Lang). Fluent French. A highly successful contract negotiator and commercial manager in mining, petrochemicals and mine engineering. Seeking greater responsibility.
Age 41 Salary £15,000

21. **Strategic Development Manager.** BSc (Econ). A professional economist closely involved with Agribusiness in the third world. Promotion blockage in major international group: seeking greater job satisfaction. Location flexible.
Age 47 Salary £12,000+

22. **Commercial Manager.** Sloan Fellowship. Good French and Arabic. Substantial company management experience in the Middle East and America especially in engineering, construction and consultancy. Tough and hardworking, location flexible.
Age 48 Salary £15,000

23. **European Manager.** Fluent French, Italian, Dutch and Spanish. A commodity trader with considerable experience of the meat and dairy industries in the EEC and Australasia. Seeking further career development.
Age 50 Salary circa $40,000

24. **Area General Manager.** Fluent French and German, good Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. A Swiss national. An engineer whose wide range covers packaging, electronics, consultancy and industrial component manufacture. Would like to develop the European division of an international manufacturing group.
Age 54 Salary £20,000

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

25. **General Manager.** An exceptionally able and likeable manager (T.O. £14m) with eight years experience covering all aspects of multiple retail store management. Properly ambitious, creative and entrepreneural. Seeking a further career opportunity.
Age 26 Salary circa £15,000

26. **Structural Engineer.** BSc Civil Eng. An intelligent young design and structural engineer with large project experience in the Gulf and in Nigeria. Wishes to continue to develop his career overseas.
Age 30 Salary £11,000

27. **General Manager.** ACA. Fluent French. An impressive international G/M with strong financial management and marketing experience especially in connection with shipping freight and transport problems. Having carried out successful company 'turn round' in two years now seeks fresh challenge.
Age 32 Salary £15,000

28. **General Manager.** MIGD. A comprehensive career in wholesale and retail has led to a unique and successful experience in Duty Free outlet management. Promotion and salary blockage and now seeking greater responsibility.
Age 43 Salary £14,000

29. **Admin Manager.** BSc (Physics) MBA. Fluent German, good French. Pilots licence helicopter and fixed wing. Considerable statistical and computer systems experience. Wishes to start a second career following 16 years regular army service.
Age 40 Salary £7,000+

30. **Supermarket Non-food Director.** With 20 years experience of the retail industry, Chain stores, shops, cash and carry, discount etc. Has successfully established new operations. Promotion blockage seeking greater responsibility.
Age 41 Salary £15,000

31. **Technical Manager.** PhD BSc M Inst P. Some French, Spanish and Dutch. Strong experience in most areas of high technology especially in value engineering and trouble shooting in manufacturing units. Promotion and salary blockage.
Age 42 Salary £10,000+

32. **Managing Director.** AIB. Some French and Dutch. His unusual career includes engineering, stock banking management (15 years) and financial and export services as well as property company management. Wishes to remain UK based.
Age 37 Salary circa £15,000

33. **Technical/Development Manager.** BSc (Eng) & (Elect) MI Mech E MIEE FRAeS. A General Manager with exceptional production experience in both high and low technology areas (Avionics, gas, steel plate) as well as IR and marketing. Promotion blockage and underpaid.
Age 51 Salary £12,000+

34. **Managing Director.** Fluent French, good German. The highly successful M/D of a prestigious high quality furnishing company with a very strong sales and marketing background in export and import retail. Fashion conscious with high level contracts worldwide.
Age 38 Salary circa £15,000

35. **M/D International Trader.** With 12 years as Far East Area Manager for major group in pharmaceuticals and f.m.c.g. Recently set up a National Trading Company – now wishes to return to normal commerce.
Age 40 Salary circa $30,000

36. **Chief Executive.** BA (Oxon) PPE MBA Distinction. A most impressive executive with both substantial industrial production experience and City experience, especially in connection with mining, pipelines and industrial gases. Promotion blockage.
Age 43 Salary £15,000+

NOTES
(i) All the above executives have been interviewed by us and we consider them to be high quality material in their particular range – there are several others whom space precludes.

(ii) If you require an executive of similar capability please contact me.

(iii) If you yourself feel that you match these standards and might benefit from a new opportunity please contact us in the strictest confidence. There is absolutely no hidden obligation or registration fee: we feel that we have a mutual interest with you in discussing your future.

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Home news

Three years of progress for Industrial Strategy

One of the most important actions of the government had been the launching of the Industrial Strategy and the priority that had been accorded to industry, Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry told the Institution of Production Engineers, on 22 November.

Mr Varley explained that when the strategy had been launched, the economic climate at the time could not have been more difficult. The worldwide recession was just beginning to bite on the UK domestic economy. But despite the difficult conditions, the natural urge for instant solutions and understandable frustrations, the government, the Confederation of British Industry and the TUC had reaffirmed their support for the approach to the Industrial Strategy. Over the past three years, co-operation between the partners had strengthened and the teamwork had begun to extend from the sector working parties to individual factories and plants.

While the rest of the industrialised world had been falteringly trying to bring recession to an end, Mr Varley continued, the Industrial Strategy had been quietly laying the foundations for a significant improvement in Britain's industrial and trading performance. Progress had been made, but things had not gone as far or as fast as would have been wished. The great gap that had opened up between Britain and some major competitors over the past 30 years was going to take a lot of closing. But by any objective assessment, there had been a turnround in the UK economy. First, there had been a remarkable financial recovery. Sterling was steady and the inflation level was in line with that of the UK's international competitors.

Second, there was more confidence in industry. Investment in manufacturing industry was up 13 per cent last year on the year before, and all the signs were that companies were planning to invest more next year too. Britain's economy would grow at 3 per cent – 3½ per cent this year.

Most hopefully of all, and in spite of the depressed situation, last year the UK's share of world trade had increased for the first time for seven years. The annual increase in productivity in recent years had been somewhere around 1 per cent, so it was sobering to realise that if total UK productivity grew at 6 per cent from now on, and West Germany productivity grew at only half this rate, the UK would not catch up with West Germany in terms of gdp per head until the tail end of this century. That was the measure of how far Britain had fallen behind.

Low productivity, Mr Varley emphasised, was not an immutable fact of British industrial life. Some British firms could equal or better productivity levels abroad. If the average level of productivity in British manufacturing industry could be raised closer to the level of the best, a substantial improvement in Britain's general economic performance would be seen. And that was what the Industrial Strategy was all about. It was an exercise in involving all those engaged in industry, management and unions, in working out with government, solutions to identifiable industrial problems.

Government's role

The government's role in the Industrial Strategy, Mr Varley continued, had two sides to it: establishing the right environment for industry and providing help with investment. This government had tried very hard, in extremely difficult circumstances, to establish conditions in which industry could enjoy sustained growth. It had done its best to provide stability and continuity in terms of taxation and incentives; special measures had been taken to help the growth of small firms.

The other side of the government's role was his own department's encouragement of investment. There had been two general schemes of assistance, the accelerated projects and the selective investment schemes, as well as a broad-ranging programme of government help to particular industries covering 15 sectors. All these schemes were in addition to the continuing investment incentives schemes designed to help the assisted areas.

Under the schemes designed to help with the modernisation and restructuring of key industrial sectors, encourage product and process development, the application of microprocessors and energy conservation, more than £400 million had been set aside. These schemes were introduced following analysis of the particular sectors and identification of their problems, and many of them were based on the recommendations of sector working parties. So far, assistance of more than £195 million had been offered under the schemes to support 2146 investment projects costing nearly £925 million.

Compensation for aircraft and shipbuilding nationalisation

Further payments on account, totalling £37.7 million in respect of compensation for nationalisation of the aircraft and shipbuilding industries, were announced by Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, on 23 November

Mr Kaufman explained that he had reviewed the possibility of further payments on account of compensation in the context of the stage now reached in negotiations with the stockholders' representatives. In the light of this review, he had authorised the payments listed below. These payments covered all the companies for which compensation had yet to be settled.

	Payment now authorised £000	Total payments on account £000
British Aircraft Corporation (Holdings)	30 350	40 000
Scottish Aviation	400	1 050
Brooke Marine	250	650
Cammell Laird Shipbuilders	150	400
Hall Russell & Company	250	650
Hawthorn Leslie (Engineers)	150	550
John G. Kincaid & Co	800	2 250
Scott Lithgow Scott Lithgow Drydocks	600	750
Vickers Shipbuilding Group	3 200	8 450
Vosper Thornycroft (UK) Vosper Shiprepairers	700	1 350
Yarrow Shipbuilders Yarrow Training	850	2 250
	37 700	58 350

Hattersley accepts GPBM/Rizla undertaking on price increases

Existing prices of Rizla cigarette paper booklets and filter tips will be held until 1 January 1979 and 1 January 1980 respectively. Any new increase for cigarette paper booklets implemented from 1 January 1979 will be held for the remainder of 1979. This is in line with the government's stated policy of encouraging intervals of at least 12 months between price increases.

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has accepted a voluntary undertaking from General Paper and Box Manufacturing Company (GPBM)/Rizla, following a report by the Price Commission on its investigation into prices charged by the companies for cigarette paper booklets, filter tips, cigarette hand-rolling machines and other accessories (see *Trade and Industry*, 24 November, page 375).

The commission recommended that the prices of cigarette paper booklets and filter tips should be restricted to levels current on 27 July 1978 (the date of the commencement of their investigation) and that the restriction should remain in force until 1 February 1979. The commission also recommended that there should be no restriction on the prices of cigarette hand-rolling machines and other accessories.

Following discussions with GPBM/Rizla, however, the secretary of state has agreed to accept an undertaking that prices of cigarette paper booklets will not be increased before 1 January 1979 (a year after the previous

increase) and any subsequent increase will be held for the remainder of 1979. The price of filter tips will not be increased at all before 1 January 1980 (two years after the previous increase).

The undertaking was made on the understanding that the secretary of state would consider varying or cancelling it if there were to be any abnormal increases in costs or other radical changes in circumstances.

Intermediate areas qualify for tourism projects

Trade secretary John Smith announced on 22 November that tourism projects in the intermediate areas were now eligible for financial assistance from the national tourist boards (see *Trade and Industry*, 24 November, page 374).

Areas of England covered by the announcement include large parts of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Devon as well as areas in Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Cornwall together with Oswestry in Shropshire and the following lists those new areas.

England

North-west region
Areas of the counties of Cheshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside not already eligible together with the areas of Buxton, Glossop, and New Mills in the High Peak District of Derbyshire.

Yorkshire and Humberside region
The counties of Humberside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and those parts of north Yorkshire not listed as development areas.

East Midlands region
North Midlands: Alfreton, Chesterfield, Clay Cross, Eckington, Heanor, Staveley, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Worksop.
North Lincolnshire: Gainsborough, Horncastle, Louth, Mablethorpe, Skegness.

West Midlands region
Oswestry.

South-west region
Devonport, Okehampton, Plymouth, Plympton, Saltash, Tavistock.

Scotland

Aberdeen, Inverurie, Stonehaven.

Wales

North Wales: Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Rhyl.
South-east Wales: Chepstow, Cwmbran, Monmouth, Newport and that part of Abergavenny which is in Gwent.

Fewer compulsory liquidations recorded last year

During 1977 there was a slight decrease in the number of compulsory liquidations (2425) compared with the previous year's figure of 2511. Once again the largest single number occurred in the construction industry.

There was also a noticeable decline (447 to 374) in the number of applications received for company investigations by the department. Investigations were approved in 115 cases compared with 152 in 1976. Inspectors from outside the department were appointed in 11 of these cases.

These are among the facts revealed in the Department of Trade's annual report 'Companies in 1977', laid before parliament on 22 November. The report gives details of the department's administration of the Company Acts 1948-76 and its work on company law reform and harmonisation of EEC company law.

Companies Registration Office for England and Wales maintained about the same level of activity as in 1976. Although slightly fewer new companies (52 872) were registered in England and Wales in 1977 than in 1976 (53 819), changes of name (12 386 to 15 502) and public searches (2 099 000 to 2 113 000) both followed the steady upward trend of recent years.

The conversion of public search of company files to viewing by microfiche was continued. Over 1977 as a whole, search on microfiche as distinct from original files accounted for 80 per cent of searches made in London and over 90 per cent of searches in Cardiff. The number of searches which could not be satisfied immediately proved less than 1 per cent of the total of search requests, compared with over 20 per cent when search was based entirely on original files. The filming of files was completed by April 1978.

Also during 1977, Companies Registration Office in Cardiff undertook a large-scale exercise to obtain from companies notification of their accounting reference date as required by the Companies Act 1976; the act came into force during the year. This involved the sending of some 654 000 initial letters and accomplished an 88 per cent effective response.

In the context of the government's programme of achieving economies within the Civil Service, consideration was given to the introduction of legislation to repeal the Registration of Business Names Act. Those consulted by the department argued strongly for the continuation of the register, particularly as a protection against fraud. The government decided that the Registry of Business Names should be retained subject to amending legislation (contained in the Companies Bill 1978) which would enable the fees charged by the registry to be increased so as to cover fully its costs of administration.

The department also took action under its new power provided by section 31 of the 1976 Companies Act to control the names of foreign companies that had registered in Great Britain, especially those where unjustifiably prestigious banking names were used.

Examinations into estate agents fees and floor and furniture polishes

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, directed the Price Commission on 17 November to undertake examinations of charges, costs and margins of estate agents, and prices, costs and margins in the manufacture of floor and furniture polishes for household use.

The terms of the directions are as follows:
The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, pursuant to section 10(1) of the Price Commission Act 1977, and after consulting the Price Commission and the Director General of Fair Trading, hereby directs the Price Commission to examine and before 16 June 1979 to make a report to him on the following questions:

Charges, costs and margins of estate agents with particular regard to charges, costs and margins in relation to sales and purchases of domestic property; and in this direction 'estate agents' means any person the nature of whose business includes the service of bringing together sellers and buyers of domestic property other than as a preliminary to some further service and 'sale and purchase of domestic property' means the transfer for a capital sum of property suitable for occupation by the purchaser as a dwelling.

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, pursuant to section 10(1) of the Price Commission Act 1977, and after consulting the Price Commission and the Director General of Fair Trading, hereby directs the Price Commission to examine and before 1 May 1979 to make a report to him on the following question:

The prices, costs and margins in the manufacture of floor and furniture polishes packaged for household use: and in this direction 'floor and furniture polishes' means polishes suitable for use on wooden floors or wooden furniture but does not include varnishes, sealers and similar products.

Further action on bread prices

Further action to prevent overcharging during the present bread strike was announced on 24 November by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Mr Hattersley said he had requested the National Association of Master Bakers, whose members were not involved in the strike, to continue to peg their prices at pre-strike levels (see *Trade and Industry*, 10 November, page 258). The master bakers recommended to their members at the beginning of the strike that their prices should be held at the level they were on 6 November for three weeks or the duration of the strike, whichever was the shorter. The master bakers had willingly agreed to continue this recommendation until 9 December and Mr Hattersley said that he was pleased to receive their co-operation. There had been few complaints of overcharging.

To enable the master bakers to proceed, an order was signed on 24 November exempting their action from registration under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act.

The National Association of Master Bakers had also agreed to investigate complaints about any overcharging by master bakers, if full details were provided (tel. 01-947 7781/4 or write to the National Association of Master Bakers, 50 Alexandra Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 7LB).

The statutory maximum prices for bread were also being vigorously enforced during the strike. Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, had asked local authorities to make a special effort to ensure that the statutory maximum prices were not exceeded.

Weighing or measuring equipment fees up

Increased fees for the examination of patterns of weighing or measuring equipment to assess their suitability for use for trade, in accordance with the provisions of section 12 of the Weights and Measures Act 1963, have been announced by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

The new fees, agreed with the Treasury, come into force today (1 December) and replace those introduced in December 1977.

Details of the new fees can be obtained from the Legal Metrology Branch of the Metrology, Quality Assurance and Standards Division of the Department at 26 Chapter Street, London SW1P 4NS, tel. 01-834 7032, ext. 130.

Government sales

12, 13 and 14 December 1978 – Vehicles

Location:
Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot, Ruddington, Notts.

Auctioneers:
Walker Walton and Hanson (Dept L), Byard Lane, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham (0602 54272).

Morris 1000s, Travellers, 1800s, Minis, Ford Escort estates and a variety of other saloon cars. Bedford and Morris minibuses, Bedford RL and TK trucks, Austin K9 signals vans, coaches, trailers, fork lift trucks, cranes, Albion machinery trucks and Caterpillar D8 tractors, snowplough and many other items.

20 and 21 December 1978 – Miscellaneous

Location:
Post House Hotel, Herbert Walker Avenue, Southampton.

Auctioneers:
Austin and Wyatt (Dept L), 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants (0329 234211).

Stores lying in south central England including clothing and textiles, furniture, binoculars, coal and coke, electrical and MT spares, hand and machine tools, racking, paint, scaffolding, trailers, tyres, fork lift trucks, tractor and vehicles.

Catalogues, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 40p, postage 15p.

WEMBLEY AUCTION SALES 1978

5 DECEMBER

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Stores India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Miscellaneous office equipment and furniture etc. (Potential buyers are advised to refer to the official catalogue available from the auctioneers, price 20p.)
Auctioneers:	Messrs Hollingsworth Westcombe House 56/58 Whitcomb Street Leicester Square London WC2H 7DR Tel. 01-839 1875

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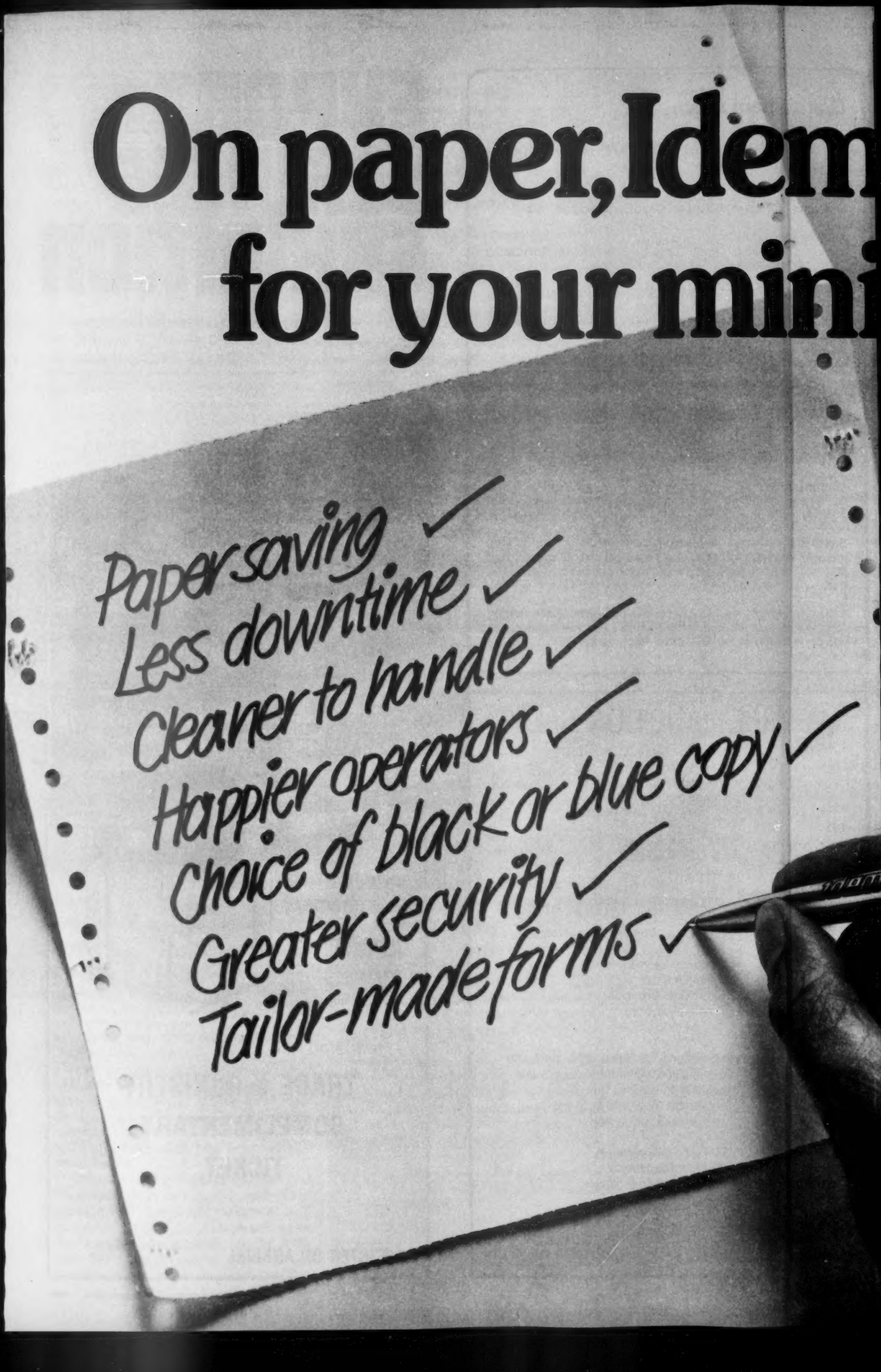
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New publications

Dictating the best system

Information explosion or paper explosion? If computers are now well established in generating management information, the rapidly increasing cost and short supply of good secretarial and typing staff invite management to seek greater efficiency in transcribing this information by the use of centralised dictation systems.

In his 'Introduction to dictation machines and systems' Alan Smith sets out to show the layman how to decide what kind of system to install and what equipment is currently available from UK suppliers, including a step-by-step guide to achieving cost savings. There is a checklist of main points for deciding on a system specification, with brief chapters on staff training, Post Office requirements (if telephone equipment is to be used) and maintenance.

Equipment available from eight major suppliers is examined in some depth, and there are alphabetical lists of the names of suppliers and their products by category – from desk-top dictation and transcription machines, to centralised systems.

Altogether a thoroughly practical book which has something for both the layman and the more experienced manager.

An introduction to dictation machines and systems, by A. D. Smith. Business Equipment Trade Association, 109 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PU. 1978. 80 pages; paperback. £4.00 (ISBN 0 903410 13 3).

Audit and the computer

As with the introduction of most new techniques, the application of computers to the field of auditing, brings with it its fair share of problems as well as benefits.

Take accountants faced with an audit in a company where the processing and storage of accounting data is by computer – they have to contend with a lack of visible evidence as is required for conventional audit tests, but have access to much more data.

In a completely rewritten and updated edition of a work first published in 1966, Brian Jenkins and Anthony Pinkney follow the general audit approach developed for application to accounting systems whatever data-processing method has been used, although they now take into account the latest advances in both data processing and auditing techniques. Attention is also paid to other issues relevant to the use of computers, such as computer security and the organisation and training of staff to carry out computer audit work, and there are suggestions on the use of computer service bureaux and on increased efficiency in computer processing generally.

With this broad scope, the book is intended to help not only practising accountants dealing with clients using computers but also the internal audit departments and managements of these companies.

An audit approach to computers: a new practice manual, by Brian Jenkins and Anthony Pinkney. Institute of Chartered Accountants. 1978. xxii, 435 pages. £11.95 (ISBN 0 85291 187 4).

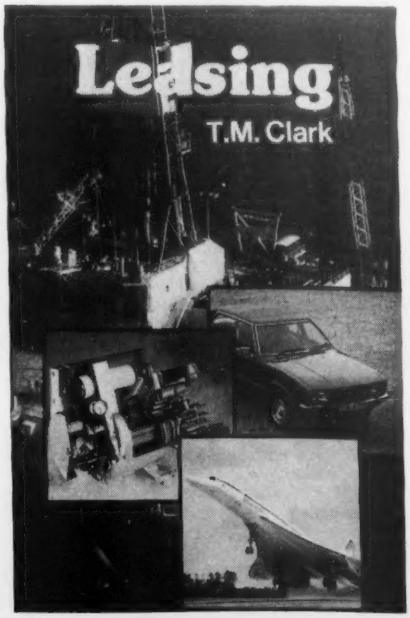
New price

'Business directory of Iceland' reviewed in *Trade and Industry* on 10 November 1978 (page 268) now costs £25.00.

Guidance on financial leasing

Leasing as a method of financing capital investment in the UK is currently experiencing a period of rapid growth. According to statistics collected from members of the Equipment Leasing Association, equipment valued at £675 million was leased in 1977, representing approximately 23 per cent of total capital expenditure on plant and equipment by industrial and commercial firms financed by external sources.

Despite the increasing importance of this aspect of industrial investment there has, until now, been little literature available on the subject. Business managers will therefore welcome a new comprehensive guide to all aspects of leasing compiled on good authority by T. M. Clark, who is both chief manager of Lloyds Leasing and chairman of the Equipment Leasing Association.



The book is well written and wide ranging. It deals not only with the more general principles of leasing but also aspects of law, taxation, government policy and insurance which are of concern to lessee and lessor alike.

Leasing, by T. M. Clark. McGraw-Hill Book Company (UK) Ltd. 1978. 307 pages. £12.00 (ISBN 0 07084 517 4).

Towards better plastics safety

Flammability standards in the testing of plastics vary considerably between the world's major producers. In a bid to explain to exporters the minimum standards required around the world, as well as to encourage higher safety standards, the Chemical Industries Association has published a guide listing the international standard methods of testing for measuring the flammability hazards of plastic materials.

In all, nearly 300 standards, mainly national in scope, are listed, covering some 18 major user countries. The amount of data provided varies considerably, from country to country, the gaps revealing the difficulty of obtaining relevant information from certain parts of the world. Spaces are provided at the end of the entries for each major country so that users can insert their own information as it becomes available.

Use of a simple letter code indicates the main application of plastics (building or electrical industries, for example) and a classification system has been devised to enable the user to see at a glance where similar test methods are used.

The compilers deserve congratulation for a worthy attempt to gather this information in one concise volume.

An international list of flammability test methods for plastics: a guide for the building, electrical, textile, aviation and transport industries. Chemical Industries Association Ltd, Alembric House, 93 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TU. 1978. v, 38 pages; paperback. £10.00.

A library for exporters

Trade and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world, including the UK, are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368/369, telex 886143 (DTI Export LDN). A modern well-equipped library of over 100 000 volumes, it has a public reading room equipped with microfiche readers and photocopying facilities. Among the documents available are foreign trade directories covering some 170 countries and selected trade fair catalogues. The library is open from 09.00 to 17.30, Monday to Friday (last passes for the building are issued at 17.15).

Technology news

Programme launched to educate and train in industrial technologies

A four-to-five-year education and training programme in industry is to follow the conclusion of the Department of Industry's industrial technologies promotional campaigns (*Trade and Industry*, 24 November, page 374). The programme will be managed by the department's industrial technologies education and training committee, under the chairmanship of Ken Durrands, rector of Huddersfield polytechnic.

The aim of the programme is to ensure the availability of teaching material on the industrial technologies – tribology, terotechnology, materials handling and corrosion control – to suit courses and syllabi at every level, including the all important 'in-career training courses'.

It will be necessary first of all to ensure that the body of knowledge in each of the four technologies is adequate to cover educational requirements. Even in such a well-established subject as corrosion technology, this has not been the case when viewed from a multi-disciplinary standpoint. It has proved necessary to collate information in new and concise formats to provide industry with the information it needs to make better corrosion control decisions.

The other extreme is terotechnology which, although more of a concept than a technology, embraces a very wide range of other techniques and technologies in its advocacy of the whole-life cycle care of physical assets. In the case of terotechnology, there is no doubt that each discipline will eventually have to adapt its own teaching material to take account of the greater inter-reaction with other disciplines demanded by the concept.

The education and training committee, which represents an extremely wide range of interests, has been re-structured to ensure that it can call on the specialised skills and experience it needs. Working parties on terotechnology, materials handling and corrosion control have been established and there is also a schools panel. A management group composed of working-party chairman, plus two or three independent senior industrialists, will look after the executive implementation and harmonisation of the individual working party programmes. It will report directly to the main committee, which will look after broad policy and influence the educational system to accept teaching material as it is generated.

It is envisaged that it will take something like four to five years for the programme to be completed. During this period it is hoped to influence educationalists at all levels by holding seminars and conferences, attended by both educationalists and industrialists, to ensure the acceptance of industrial technology material in appropriate courses. Each of the industrial technologies will require a different approach in getting the message across. Core material in the form of teaching modules, publications and video-tape presentations will be available in due course.

Further information on any aspect of the education and training programme is available from the Secretariat, Room 314 Ashdown House, 123 Victoria St, London SW1E 6RB, tel. 01-212 8654.

Metal sprayed in nitrogen gives cheaper preforms

A new metal forging and powder making process – Osprey – which has been developed over the last two years, produces spray deposited preforms highly economically and to a very high standard due to the use of nitrogen. Savings of up to 50 per cent can be achieved on the manufacture of shaped metal articles, such as gears and cutting tools.

A worldwide marketing agreement on the process has been signed by Osprey Metals, Neath, West Glamorgan, and BOC. The development work by Osprey has been backed by BOC, which designed and custom-built the gas control and supply system. It is expected that licence agreements resulting in the installation of Osprey plant for the production of spray forgings and extrusions will be completed within the next few weeks.

With the Osprey process, segregated scrap, discarded flash or cast 'stick' of almost any metal is melted and poured into a heated tundish from which the issuing stream of molten metal is inert-gas atomised by high-velocity nitrogen jets. This results in a spray of hot particles which is directed into a shaped collector. On impact, the particles flatten and weld together to form hot, high-density coherent preforms which can then be forged within seconds.

The unique metallurgical characteristics of spray deposited preforms include lack of segregation, fine grain size and high density, typically greater than 98 per cent, with no internal oxidation.

A natural spin-off from the advanced technology needed to manufacture Osprey preforms has been the development of systems for the production of micro-sized, gas atomised metal powders of very high quality. Powders with low oxygen content are possible in a wide range of alloys, including low alloy steels, stainless steels, tool steels, superalloys and non-ferrous metals.

With the Osprey technology, it is also possible to considerably vary the particle size distribution curve for the alloy, and, in some cases to modify the shape of the power produced. Another significant feature of the powder production unit is its compact size which can normally be housed in standard industrial premises rather than in high, tower like structures.

Safety guide for machine tool designers

'Safety legislation for the machine tool designer', a new guide published by the Machine Tool Industry Research Association, has been prepared because other generally available explanations of current legislation on health and safety at work have been written mainly for employers and employees and are thus directed more towards users than designers of machine tools.

The intention of the guide is to help machine tool designers by making clear the extent of their legal obligations for health and safety and to identify the legislation and offical advisory publications that are relevant for any particular type of machine.

The general requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 are outlined as they directly affect the work of the machine tool designer. Consideration is also given to the demands on the designer made by the machine tool purchaser and user, the requirements for imported machines and for exhibiting machinery. The associated regulations, advisory publications and sources of information are listed, the methods of enforcement of the regulations are described, and the implications of the regulations for liability and insurance are briefly discussed.

'Safety legislation for the machine tool designer' is available, price £2 to member companies and £4 to non-members from MTIRA, Hulley Road, Macclesfield Cheshire, SK10 2NE, tel. Macclesfield 25421 and 26189.

Improved photo-fit by computer

A computer system for generating facial images built up from a number of standard features has been developed by the Computer Aided Design (CAD) Centre. It operates in a similar fashion to the manual methods presently used by the police but has the advantages that the standard features can be merged into a face, the tonal range can be

adjusted, and even the shape modified, in a manner quite impossible by conventional methods.

The development work was undertaken by the CAD centre at the request of the police scientific development branch (PSDB). The decision to commission the CAD centre was made because of its extensive experience in computer graphics and because of its latest hardware development, the advanced graphics display terminal, which was used in developing the system.

The system uses a display terminal connected to a computer in which is stored a databank of standard facial features. These features are used in combination with one another to build up, on a display terminal, a composite face that accords with the description of witnesses.

Though the technique has now been fully developed, it is being handed over to PSDB for practical testing. In the immediate future, the PSDB intends to carry out a detailed evaluation of the advantages of the new system over the conventional systems used. The long-term hope is that it will prove possible to produce a portable unit that could be plugged into a domestic tv and used by a police officer at the scene of an incident to build up a picture of a suspect from the description given by witnesses.

New regulations to govern use of nuclear materials

Regulations are being made on 1 December making two changes in the form and quantity of nuclear materials. These will apply to materials that are excluded from the liability and insurance provisions of the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 in certain circumstances, because of the small extent of the risk associated with them. Unless previously annulled by parliament, the regulations will come into force on 1 January.

These regulations, when made, will supersede the Nuclear Installations (Excepted Matter) Regulations 1965, and implement recent decisions taken by the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency (with the UK's agreement) to exclude certain nuclear matter from the scope of the Paris convention on third party liability in the field of nuclear energy. These OECD decisions are based on full international discussions of the latest technical and scientific information, including information about health and safety.

The regulations will make some minor alterations to the small quantities of nuclear matter that are already excepted from the act. They will also except uranium containing less than 1 per cent of the fissile isotope and less than specified very low levels of radioactive contamination: this material is not significantly different in health and safety terms from natural uranium, which is already excepted from the act.

The first change alters the small quantities of nuclear materials that are already excepted by the existing regulations, subject to compliance with the International Atomic Energy Agency's regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials. The new regulations will make minor changes to the relevant radioactive limits and will relate packaging requirements to the latest edition of the IAEA regulations. The new radioactivity limits will be unchanged for 178 radionuclides, slightly relaxed for 68, and made more restrictive for seven.

The second change will exclude uranium containing not more than the very low levels of radioactivity contamination specified in the new regulations. This exclusion will mean that, for the purposes of the act, this form of uranium will be treated in the same way as natural uranium, from which it is not significantly different in health and safety terms. Natural uranium (defined as material containing not more than 0.72 per cent of the fissile isotope) is already excepted from the act.

If nuclear material falling within these definitions should cause damage while it is outside a nuclear installation, any compensation claims would have to be brought under the general law and not under the 'strict liability' provisions of the 1965 act. Inside a nuclear installation, it is subject to the 1965 act like any other nuclear material.

Copies of the new regulations are available from the Library, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ.

Conference for exporters of mobile agricultural equipment

A one-day conference on the export of mobile agricultural equipment is being organised by Technical Help to Exporters (THE), the export advisory service of the British Standards Institution. This is a follow on from the successful half-day conference held by THE in Birmingham last March, and is being organised again in conjunction with the Agricultural Engineers' Association.

This second conference is arranged to take place on 31 January at the Tara Hotel in Kensington, London, and will cover the export of equipment to what has been established as three of the main markets in this field – France, Germany (FR) and Sweden. Experts from the relevant approval organisations in these countries will speak at the conference on the design, construction and safety requirements and approval procedures currently in force in each country. In addition, a representative from the UK Health and Safety Executive will discuss the trends in the EEC and the directives that cover mobile agricultural equipment.

The fee for the conference is £30 plus VAT to THE members and £40 plus VAT to non-members. Reservations can be made by contacting the Promotion Services Department, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, tel. Hemel Hempstead 3111.

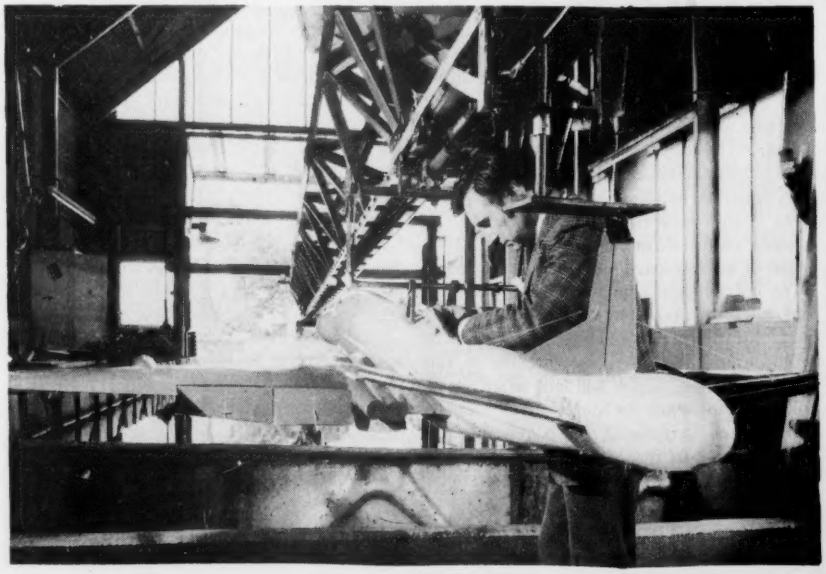
BHC 'ditches' aircraft

Information from which the best 'ditching' techniques can be devised is obtained at the British Hovercraft Corporation's experimental and electronic laboratories by catapulting aircraft models into a large tank of water. The laboratories are one of the few establishments in the world accredited to the Civil Aviation Authority of Britain and the Federal Aviation Authority of the United States for this type of work. To date, the ditching characteristics of over 40 British and foreign aircraft have been investigated.

The catapult has been set up to give the model correctly scaled horizontal and vertical speeds, angles of roll and yaw that will provide information on the best speed and approach attitude during an emergency landing on water. Tests are carried out in calm water and beam and head waves of appropriate sizes provided by wavemakers up to 27 m long.

The models normally have three accelerometers distributed longitudinally along the fuselage. These can be supplemented by other accelerometers and transducers. Various parts of the model are attached to each other in a manner that allows them to separate if the loads applied would cause structural separation in the real aircraft. Radio telemetry set inside the model measures the respective loads and data are transmitted via a receiver and recorded as ultra violet traces for consequent analysis.

Scale model of airborne early-warning Nimrod being fitted into a catapult prior to 'ditching'.



New products

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Fast cutting-off system leaves a fine finish

A fully automatic abrasive cutting-off system from Snow and Co of Sheffield is claimed to provide an unequalled combination of accuracy, speed and surface finish. At a six second floor-to-floor time, accuracy of cut is stated to be within ± 0.12 mm on length and ± 0.10 mm per 25 mm² on squareness, with a surface finish better than 0.5 micrometres. Reductions in processing costs for steel stockholders, engineering shops, foundries and rolling mills can be considerable due to high input rates, savings in materials and elimination of such further operations as de-burring or facing, it is stated.

Materials of any hardness from carbon to nimonic steels can be handled by the system's vertically operating cutting-off equipment. The workhead slides between twin pillars – an arrangement that achieves a degree of rigidity not possible with traditional pivoted-beam designs. Hydraulic clamps hold the work firmly on either side of the cut, and the head can be operated only when they are fully applied.

Mounted on the workhead is a rubber-bonded abrasive wheel which is thinner and quieter than resin-bonded ones. Coolant is applied to each of its faces from carefully positioned nozzles. Since cooling is greater at the faces than at the centre of the wheel, the centre wears faster so that, after the first few cutting revolutions, a concavity develops in the wheel's cutting perimeter. The resulting projecting edges are, in effect, thin cutting edges that contribute to a high surface finish by removing burr. The cutting zone is totally enclosed during operation. Electric sensors compensate for wheel wear, automatically maintaining optimum cutting stroke.

Bars of up to 44 mm diameter can be cut on standard machines at a maximum rate of 300 mm²/sec; equipment for bars of larger diameters can be supplied to special order. The cutting-off unit is linked to work-handling equipment that feeds bar continuously at synchronised speed from a bulk rack and removes cut pieces to a discharge rack. When bar stock is exhausted, or the wheel has reached minimum size, the machine automatically shuts itself off. An illuminated display to show sequencing is included in the control console's panel. All circuitry is solid-state, with plug-in boards to facilitate fault finding and correction.

Two complementary systems are also offered by the British manufacturer. One is suitable for hot or cold general work and operates semi-automatically. The other system is suitable for heavy-duty applications in, for example, hot-work rolling mills.

Further information: circle 240

Radio traffic control for the smaller airport

A speech processing and control system for air traffic control at smaller airports has been launched by Cable and Wireless. The system is a compact version of the standard Cable and Wireless speech processing and control equipment (Space) system and has been designated Minispace.

In addition to air traffic control applications, Minispace is ideally suited, says the company, to any organisation with a requirement for centrally controlled radio, telephone and intercom systems. This includes the police, fire and ambulance services as well as organisations like port authorities and security firms.

Minispace retains the versatility and flexibility of the bigger Space system in a compact console unit designed for desk-top mounting. It has facilities for the control of up to five radio channels and five telephone lines. The unit is of modular construction enabling easy maintenance, interchangeability of parts and system expansion.

The console unit features mains or battery operation, provision for hand-microphone or headset, push-to-talk switch and crash alarm panel. A footswitch, digital clock and wind instruments are available. The unit is supplied ready for use and the only installation work necessary is the connection of power and audio channels.

Further information: circle 241

Offices planned by computer

Saphier Lerner Schindler, the UK subsidiary of SLS Environetics of the United States, has recently introduced a new system of space accounting, for interior design and office planning. The company, based on its system linking computer graphics and space analysis, has now produced the software to assist corporate and institutional executives by providing accurate and up-to-the minute data on office space allocation.

The traditional method of filing plans has always suffered from its need for huge areas of space, endless filing cabinets and the time involved in maintaining it. Inevitably plans get lost, become out of date, or simply shrink, stretch or fade to the point where they are useless to the executive needing to re-allocate space.

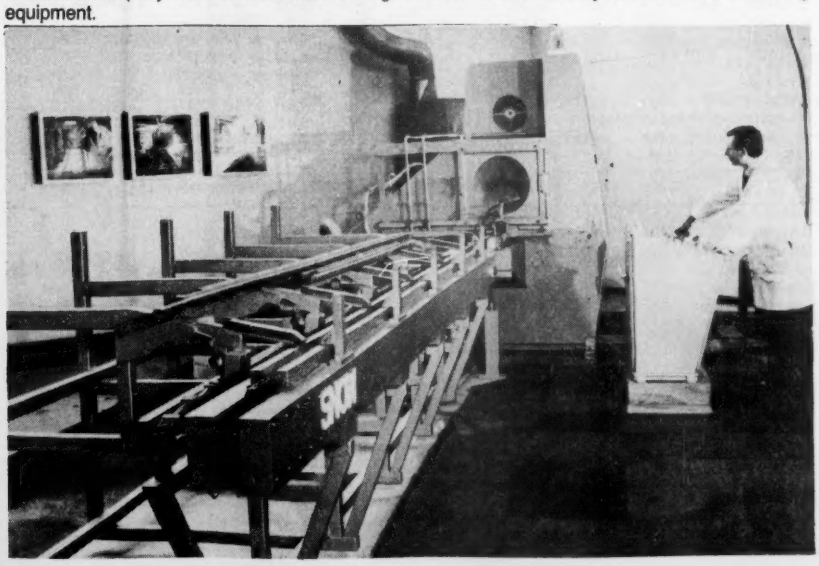
The SLS system feeds the true 'at the moment' information into the computer, into which changes in space-use can be fed and corrected at regular intervals. The computer is linked to a 'graphic plotter' which has the ability to draw normal architectural working drawings or plans showing everything from the actual floor-plan to partition-layout, furniture location, lighting and electrical plans, and even design effects such as colour schemes.

The executive needing this information can then 'call-off' the relevant information and the computer will draw-up a set of plans as accurate as the information it originally received. The changes, once made and executed, can then be fed in to replace the original.

This system is being used successfully already by the United States' General Services Administration and the Mount Sinai Medical Centre in New York. It has been used during design work in the UK on interior planning work for such companies as W. H. Smith and Sons, Collins Publishers and the new EMI headquarters.

Further information: circle 242

Snow and Company's automatic abrasive cutting-off machine is linked to synchronised work-handling equipment.



Parliament

Monday, 20 November

Laboratory of the Government Chemist

Sir Anthony Royle (Richmond) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would publish the current cost to public funds of the move of the Laboratory of the Government Chemist from London to Cumbria, together with figures showing: the building costs; the cost of relocating employess; the cost of terminating existing contracts and of redundancies: the annual expected operating costs, including those of accommodation, compared with present costs; and the costs and return from the sale, conversion or other use of the previous premises and the present value of the overall benefit of the move.

Mr Huckfield said the new laboratory would not be ready before 1984 and it was far too early to provide detailed costings; the design was still at an early stage. Estimates for the dispersal programme as a whole were given last year by the Lord Privy Seal but estimates for individual elements were not available.

British Shipbuilders' report

Frederick Willey (Sunderland North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he had received a report from British Shipbuilders; and if he would make a statement.

Mr Kaufman answered that if he was referring to British Shipbuilders' Corporate Plan, he did not expect to receive it until towards the end of the year.

Import penetration

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the degree of import penetration of the UK market in respect of tool steel, high speed steels, and stainless steel bar in each of the years 1974, 1976, 1977 and 1978, to 30 September: by volume; by value; and as a percentage of the UK market, showing the main exporting countries to the UK.

Mr Huckfield said the information was given below. The estimates of import penetration were based only on volume figures because figures of the value of home deliveries were not available.

Building industry statistics

Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked for what purpose the Department of Industry was collecting statistics from the building industry on the purchase of building materials; under which act the survey was authorised; and what sanctions would be taken against firms which failed to supply the required information.

Mr Huckfield said that the Business Statistics Office would be asking firms in the construction industry employing 20 or more persons for details of their purchases of building materials as an extension of the Annual Census of Production for 1979. The census was taken under section 2 of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947 and firms failing to complete returns were liable to prosecution under section 4 of that act. Detailed information on purchases by the construction industry had last been sought in 1968. It would be used to bring up to date the basis of calculating the construction materials price index and related indices that were used extensively in price variation adjustments. It would also be used in the preparation of input/output tables to study the interdependence between industries. A wide variety of firms and trade associations had stressed how important this information was.

Cost of Business Statistics Office

Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked what was the cost to public funds of the Statistical Office at Newport; and how many people were currently employed there.

Mr Huckfield replied that in the financial year 1977-78, the cost to public funds of the Business Statistics Office at Newport was £7.5 million; 1027 people were employed there on 10 November 1978.

Iron and steel industry report

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would publish the report of the iron and steel industry sector working party on the special steels industry.

Mr Kaufman replied that after consideration last summer, the working party had decided not to publish this report as it contained commercial information supplied in confidence by UK producers and consumers.

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer *
Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: John Smith
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

* Mr Cryer resigned on 20 November.

NEB and steel industry

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked what was the current involvement of the National Enterprise Board in the special steels industry.

Mr Huckfield said it was not involved but the board was always ready to consider proposals for worthwhile investment.

Special steels industry

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would hold discussions with the principal trades unions concerned about possible reorganisation of the special steels industry. He also asked if he would initiate discussions with the British Independent Steel Producers' Association with a view to producing a planning agreement for the special steels industry.

Mr Huckfield said the problems of the special steel industry, including the need for possible reorganisation, were one of the main issues already being considered by the Nedo iron and steel sector working party. Both the employers and the trade unions were represented as well as the government. The secretary of state had asked the sector working party to give further thought to ways in which the industry could best be helped to improve its effi-

IMPORT PENETRATION OF UK MARKET BY MAIN EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO UK

	1974			1976			1977			1978 (Jan-Sep)		
	Imports		Import penetration	Imports		Import penetration	Imports		Import penetration	Imports		Import penetration
	Tonnes	£'000	Per cent	Tonnes	£'000	Per cent	Tonnes	£'000	Per cent	Tonnes	£'000	Per cent
Alloy tool, die and magnet steel												
France	7 510	1 157	14.86	5 154	1 228	14.58	11 236	2 486	23.09	9 610	2 842	22.93
Netherlands	690	182	1.36	141	65	0.40	858	217	1.76	2 286	628	5.46
Federal Republic of Germany	5 742	1 388	11.37	2 420	1 052	6.85	4 545	2 593	9.34	6 554	3 197	15.64
Italy	995	317	1.97	2 000	451	5.66	3 908	1 082	8.03	2 332	709	5.56
Sweden	8 908	2 263	17.63	4 803	2 138	13.60	5 348	2 116	10.99	1 718	941	4.10
Finland	5 740	957	11.37	5 910	1 585	16.72	3 526	1 162	7.25	3 456	1 272	8.25
Austria	1 142	670	2.26	1 189	1 123	3.36	2 226	2 581	4.57	517	445	1.23
Japan	84	34	0.17	1 213	556	3.43	1 909	787	3.92	628	288	1.50
USA	4 280	1 138	8.47	188	234	0.53	209	244	0.43	335	481	0.80
Brazil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 245	249	2.97
All countries	36 727	8 523	72.69	23 802	8 685	67.35	35 525	13 865	73.01	29 895	11 518	71.34
High speed steel bar and rod (including wire rod)												
France	341	527	2.86	252	486	2.31	718	1 624	6.18	360	1 030	4.23
Federal Republic of Germany	186	273	1.56	52	108	0.48	433	821	3.73	189	492	2.22
Sweden	2 875	3 498	24.09	2 491	4 394	22.80	2 257	4 590	19.44	2 097	4 151	24.65
Austria	1 334	1 708	11.18	382	850	3.50	416	1 109	3.58	409	1 396	4.81
All countries	5 087	6 609	42.63	3 419	6 365	31.30	4 251	8 701	36.61	3 190	7 313	37.49
Stainless steel bars												
France	1 578	940	4.57	853	1 182	3.86	1 189	1 892	4.37	1 341	2 133	5.72
Federal Republic of Germany	1 683	1 182	4.88	2 127	1 823	9.62	3 011	2 751	11.05	2 187	2 309	9.33
Italy	289	165	0.84	470	402	2.13	2 502	2 699	9.18	2 736	2 731	11.67
Austria	412	297	1.19	453	478	2.05	749	989	2.75	610	794	2.60
Spain	1 497	878	4.34	1 245	1 067	5.63	2 251	2 145	8.26	1 287	1 206	5.49
All countries	8 279	5 520	24.00	7 955	7 602	35.98	12 201	13 548	44.78	9 670	11 079	41.25

In order to provide comparability as between the trade statistics of Customs and Excise and the delivery figures from ISSB the three product categories covered are as follows: a Alloy tool, die and magnet steel excludes carbon tool steel. b High speed steel includes high speed wire rod. c In addition to stainless steel bar this steel category includes valve steel and tube rounds.
Sources: Iron and Steel Statistical Bureau, HM Customs and Excise.

ciency and competitiveness but he was always willing to consider any practical ideas and proposals to help the industry that were put to him. Planning agreements were negotiated with individual companies rather than with sectors of industry but the British Independent Steel Producers' Association was represented on the sector working party and participate actively in its discussions. The secretary of state would, however, welcome, at the same time, the conclusion of planning agreements with companies in this sector.

EEC and special steels

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked what discussions had taken place between his department and commissioner D'Avignon on the problem of special steels and the need for orderly marketing of these steels within the community. Frank Hooley also asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would seek to place on the agenda of the next meeting of EEC industry ministers the problem of special steels with a view to eliminating dumping and discriminating pricing by producers in EEC countries.

Mr Huckfield replied that the secretary of state had written to commissioner D'Avignon about this serious problem on 15 September and the Minister of State for Industry had discussed it with him on 16 October. A reply from the commissioner had now been received and was being considered by the minister of state who would be pursuing this problem further at the council of ministers meeting on 21 November.

EEC regional fund assistance

John Sever (Birmingham, Ladywood) asked what assistance had been given by the EEC regional fund to industrial projects: in the west Midlands; and in the area of the Birmingham District Council, by parliamentary constituency; and if he would list those projects individually in the 'Official Report'.

Mr Cryer said the European regional development fund could only contribute towards the costs of projects in assisted areas with priority being given to those in the national priority areas, namely development areas and special development areas. So far no projects had been assisted in the Oswestry employment office area which was the only assisted area in the west Midlands.

Post Office Code of Practice

*Michael Ward (Peterborough) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he had received a copy of the Post Office Code of Practice to which the minister of state had referred (*Official Report, *6 May 1977, column 854) as having been approved in principle by the Post Office.*

Mr Huckfield said that he had not but he looked forward to an early outcome to the discussions the Post Office was having with the Office of Fair Trading and the Post Office Users' National Council.

Current pay scales of technicians

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would list in the Official Report *the current pay scales of technicians employed in research establishments for which his department had general responsibility.*

Mr Huckfield replied that technician was not a civil service grade in the department's research establishments, but some members of the professional and technology group employed there might be so described. The pay scales (national rates) for the grades in those establishments most relevant to that description were:

PTO IV entry scale:
Age 21 – £3,148
Age 22 – £3,251
Age 23 – £3,355
Age 24 – £3,458
Age 25 – £3,562
Age 26 – £3,671
Age 27 – £3,774
£3,878
£3,981
Main scale: £3,878, £3,981, £4,085, £4,206, £4,326
PTO III: £4,326, £4,435, £4,545, £4,654, £4,763, £4,869

Small firms' counselling service

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked what further action was being taken in the help to small businesses provided under the small firms counselling service.

Mr Cryer replied that development of the small firms' counselling service was kept under constant review by officials and it had been decided that in exceptional circumstances, firms might receive counselling advice for periods in excess of the 10 days maximum in any one year under the scheme as it stood. He emphasised that such occasions would be rare and would only arise where it was clear that extra counselling for particular firms would put their development in terms of growth, output and profitability on a firmer footing.

Change in terms of trade

David Price (Eastleigh) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what the change of 1 per cent either way in the terms of trade for the UK meant in value at current prices for the overall trade balance.

Mr Meacher answered that the effect of a change in the terms of trade on the current balance would depend on a number of factors, such as the period over which the effect was considered, the cause of the change – for example whether it arose principally on exports or imports, and for which products – and the impact on trade volumes. In the very short term, assuming unchanged volumes, a rise of 1 per cent might be expected to improve the visible balance by around £30 million in a month, with a fall of 1 per cent reducing it by a similar amount. The long-term impact would generally be considerably less than this and would depend on the factors referred to above and on the prevailing economic circumstances.

Oil mop device

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade why he stated (Official Report, 13 November, cols. 84–5) *that the oil mop device developed by Oil Recovery International, of Christchurch, Dorset, was suitable only for use close inshore and in sheltered waters when the device had now been developed to the point where the manufacturers would guarantee its use in the open sea in wind conditions up to force seven.*

Mr Clinton Davis replied that because the devices in question were only suitable for use close inshore and in sheltered waters he understood that Oil Mop (UK), in association with another company, was in the process of developing a system for use in the open seas employing a large 'oil mop' rope. He also understood that a full-scale model was not yet available for test and evaluation.

Select committee report on oil spillage

Sir Frederick Bennett (Torbay) asked the Secretary of State for Trade when he now expected to issue the government's reply to the fourth report, sessions 1977-78, of the Select Committee on Science and Technology on oil spillage.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that he expected to reply to this report in the customary manner before Christmas.

Export to Japan

Edwin Wainwright (Dearne Valley) asked what areas of discrimination currently existed against British exports to Japan; what was the position over each of the past 4 years; and what action he was taking or intended to take to improve the UK's trade balance with that country.

Mr Meacher said the main areas of discrimination included the high import duties on Scotch and confectionery, the quotas on leather and the distribution and pricing policies of the state tobacco monopoly. Some concessions had been introduced into the tariffs of Scotch earlier in the year. The EEC commission was pursuing these questions bilaterally and in the multilateral trade negotiations, and the government use every opportunity to press its case, too. Over the past few years, the government and the EEC commission had also pursued a number of other sectoral problems which had deterred exporters. These had included Japanese standards and test procedures on, for example, cars, pharmaceuticals and marine diesel engines. Japan had responded to these representations and changes had been introduced. For example, the application of the 1978 Emission Standards to foreign cars had been deferred for three years, and reciprocal testing arrangements for cars had been made. Further representations would be made as necessary. The main obstacle to exporters, however, had been the depressed state of Japan's domestic demand and its high level of self-sufficiency in manufactured goods. Together with the EEC, the government had been pressing Japan to adopt policies which would eliminate these obstacles, lead to more imports of manufactured goods and so reduce Japan's global current account surplus. Japan had undertaken to increase its real growth rate by 7 per cent and to reduce its global surplus in fiscal year 1978. This pressure would be maintained, for example at the next round EEC/Japan high level consultations at the beginning of December.

Industrial participation

Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether it was his policy to employ the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) as the instrument for industrial participation or if a specialist agency was proposed.

Mr Smith replied that the white paper on industrial democracy (Cmnd 7231) had indicated that the government was disposed to accept the recommendation of the Bullock Committee that a new institution should be set up. A final decision would be taken in the light of the views expressed by the TUC, CBI, Acas and other interested parties.

Rights of consultation for employees

Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether his legislative proposals on industrial democracy would include rights of consultation for all employees whether or not they were trade union members.

Mr Smith replied that the government's proposals on this matter were set out in the white paper on industrial democracy (Cmnd 6231) on which consultations were in progress. He would in due course announce detailed proposals for legislation.

British Airways (UK)

Hugh Fraser (Stafford and Stone) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether, bearing in mind that it was now cheaper to fly from London to San Francisco than to Inverness, he would refer British Airways (UK) to the Price Commission for investigation.

Mr Clinton Davis said that he would not. The fares from London to San Francisco were well above those from London to Inverness but, in any event, fares charged by UK airlines were subject to the approval of the Civil Aviation Authority and were not a matter for the Price Commission. In examining fare proposals the authority was required to have regard, among other things, to government prices policy.

Retail price index

Michael Neubert (Romford) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what effect he estimated the 2½ per cent increase in minimum lending rate would have on the retail price index in the period up to the end of 1979.

Mr Hattersley replied that changes in the minimum lending rate had no direct effect on the RPI, but the recent increase in the mortgage rate would add about one half of 1 per cent to the index for as long as it was in operation. On the other hand, a rise in interest rates was necessary to keep the growth of the money supply within the announced Targets, which was essential if inflation was to be kept under control.

Royal Doulton tablewear

Giles Shaw (Pudsey) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what action he proposed to take in the light of the Price Commission's report on Royal Doulton tableware.

Mr Maclennan said that the Price Commission did not recommend any price restrictions in this case, but suggested that the scale of gross margins in the retail distribution of tableware in the UK domestic market might be pursued by means of a sectoral examination. The secretary of state was considering this suggestion.

Unnecessary roof repairs

Jeremy Bray (Motherwell and Wishaw) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what steps he had taken to deter firms from extorting money from aged householders for unnecessary roof repairs, despite repeated fines.

Mr Fraser replied that aged householders, and inexperienced consumers generally, would be wise to take advice before contracting for roof repairs. The Director General of Fair Trading had the power to take action against a trader who persistently breached his contractual obligations or the criminal law and was currently seeking assurances from two such firms. He was keeping under review whether there were sufficient powers to deal with shortcomings in the service trades.

Compound feedingstuffs

Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he would now announce the outcome of discussions with interested parties on the Price Commission report on prices, costs and margins in the production and distribution of compound feedingstuffs for cattle, pigs and poultry; and what action it was proposed to take to promote greater price competition, as recommended by the report.

Mr Maclennan answered that following discussions with interested parties the secretary of state had announced his conclusions on 21 August. He had indicated that the Director General of Fair

Trading would take action against those suppliers shown by the Price Commission to be engaged in price co-ordination; and that the commission's comments on loyalty discounts would be considered by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in the context of its current study of discounts in general. Other recommendations in the report, particularly in respect of labelling of ingredients, home mixing and independent test results, were all drawn to the attention of the industry, and any further action rests with them in the light of such additional discussion with the Ministry of Agriculture as might be necessary.

Takeovers by conglomerates

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what recent studies his department had made of the activities of conglomerate companies which use large financial resources to take over companies whose business was unrelated to their own and in fields where they had no technical expertise.

Mr Fraser replied that an interdepartmental group of senior officials had reviewed this issue among others as part of a wider study of monopolies and mergers policy. Their report, which the secretary of state had published as a green paper last May, contained certain recommendations for strengthening control over the activities of conglomerate companies. But these recommendations were still the subject of consultation and did not represent current government policy.

Assessment of price increase

Tim Sainsbury (Hove) asked whether, and on how many occasions, the Price Commission had disallowed a price increase because a productivity scheme had been found not to be self-financing.

Mr Hattersley said that the Price Commission assessed price increases in the light of the criteria in section 2 of the Price Commission Act 1977, and did not pay exclusive attention to any one consideration. But the commission regarded productivity schemes, and the extent to which they were self-financing, as one of the matters which it took into account when it considered factors that contributed to increased costs.

Price of motor car spares

Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) asked what were the considerations leading to the reference of the prices of British-made spare parts for motor vehicles to the Price Commission.

Mr Maclennan answered that the considerations which the secretary of state had in mind in making this reference included extensive public concern at the price of motor car spares and that running a car was a substantial and essential part of the budget of very many households.

Television rentals

Peter Viggers (Gosport) asked what consideration had been given to the television industry's future investment programme when he recently arranged a standstill in television rentals from certain companies.

Mr Maclennan replied that the connection between the television rental and manufacturing industries, and the investment plans of the latter, had been considered in some detail in the Price Commission report on which the secretary of state's action had been based. Against this background, the Price Commission had advised that the rentals of a number of companies should not be increased before 1 April 1979 beyond the levels applying at 31 August 1978. These same issues had also been discussed with the companies after the report had been published. Following these discussions, the secretary of state had accepted voluntary assurances on levels of rental which fully reflected the advice of the commission.

Northern Ireland

James Kilfedder (North Down) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what progress he had made on his promise during his visit to Northern Ireland that he would be prepared to examine the reasons for the generally higher price levels that pertain in the province.

Mr Hattersley said he had made it clear during his visit to Northern Ireland that, while recognising that there was genuine concern over the levels of prices there, he had reached no conclusions as to possible causes or solutions. The first task had to be to establish the facts and he is considering with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland the scope for a study with this purpose.

Tuesday, 21 November

Returns on invested capital

Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would publish a list of the returns on invested capital, after tax, of all industries and oil-based industries for each of the years 1968 to 1978.

Mr Huckfield replied that the latest available estimates had been published in an article 'Companies rate of return on capital employed 1960 to 1977' in *Trade and Industry* on 22 September 1978 (pages 675-79, see table 4, column 8). These estimates related to large listed companies engaged in manufacturing, distribution and certain other services whose main activities were in the UK. Separate estimates for oil-based industries were not available. The ratios given in table 4 of the article were based on the book values in companies' accounts and did not allow for the effect of inflation on income and capital. They therefore did not give a true picture of the level or trend of 'real' rates of return, ie adjusted for inflation. Real rates of return before tax were given in tables 1, 2 and 3 of the same article; the different sources and definitions for the figures were summarised in table 5 of the article.

British Shipbuilders' capital expenditure

Frederick Willey (Sunderland North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he would give the details of the future capital expenditure authorised by British Shipbuilders.

Mr Huckfield said that the report and accounts of British Shipbuilders showed that at 31 March 1978, future capital expenditure authorised, but not contracted for, by the corporation had amounted to £14.6 million. The detailed breakdown of this figure was a matter for British Shipbuilders.

Business Statistics Office

Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked how many surveys had been handled by the Statistical Office at Newport to date in 1978; and how many were handled in 1977. He also asked how many surveys were currently being handled by the Statistical Office at Newport; how many of them related to industry; and how this compared with the position 12 months ago.

Mr Huckfield replied that the Business Statistics Office had carried out 21 surveys so far in 1978 – two more than in 1977. No additional surveys would be conducted during the remainder of this year. The number of forms despatched, however, was likely to be about 440 000 in 1978, compared with 472 000 in 1977, and 546 000 in 1976. 936 000 were despatched in 1972. Details of the activities of the Business Statistics Office and of the surveys it conducts were given in the 'Business Statistics Office: report for 1977'.

Shipbuilding production

Donald Dewer (Glasgow, Garscadden) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if would publish in the Official Report *a table showing shipbuilding production in the UK in every year since 1970, together with the percentage of world output this represented and the comparative figures for South Korea, Taiwan and Norway.*

Mr Huckfield gave the following information:

COMPLETIONS OF MERCHANT VESSELS '000 gross registered tons

		1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
United Kingdom	Completions	1 327	1 233	1 197	1 067	1 198	1 170	1 500	1 020
	Per cent of word total	6.3	5.1	4.5	3.5	3.6	3.4	4.4	3.7
South Korea	Completions	2	16	15	14	313	410	814	562
	Per cent of world total	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.9	1.2	2.4	2.0
Taiwan	Completions	90	94	144	132	153	88	83	296
	Per cent of world total	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.2	1.1
Norway	Completions	702	884	825	984	964	1 052	758	567
	Per cent of world total	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.2	2.1
World total	Completions	20 980	24 388	26 749	30 409	33 541	34 203	33 922	27 532

Source: Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

Wednesday, 22 November

Annual report on companies

Timothy Smith (Ashfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade when he expected to publish the annual report of the companies administration division for the year ended 31 December 1977.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the 'Annual report on companies in 1977' had been laid before the Commons that day. Unfortunately, due to a dispute in Her Majesty's Stationery Office, the report was not available for sale to the public at present.

Quotas for imported paper products

John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what action he had taken in connection with the current negotiations over duty-free quotas for imported paper products to ensure adherence to the undertaking given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the fourth standing committee on statutory instruments on Wednesday, 15 February.

Mr Meacher replied that he had said to the committee that the representations he had heard would weigh heavily with him whem considering the 1979 duty-free quotas, but he had also stated that he could not undertake that there would be no increases next year. Although the UK paper-making industry was still facing considerable difficulties, there had been a slight improvement in output and capacity utilisation in the past year. In the current consultations, the government had sought as in previous years to maintain a fair balance between the interests of the British user industries and the aspirations of the Efta countries under the free trade agreements. Any increases granted would be restricted to quotas where UK users had a strong interest and where, in the government's view, there would be no more than insignificant effects on UK manufacturers.

Trade with EEC in manufactured goods

John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was the extent of the United Kingdom's deficit on balance of trade in manufactured goods with EEC countries so far in the current year; what was his estimate of this figure for the whole year; and how this compared with each of the last three years.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

	Crude deficit (imports valued cif minus exports valued fob) £ million
1975	543
1976	463
1977	626
1978 Jan-Oct	1 337

Source: UK Overseas Trade Statistics, SITC (Rev 2) sections 5-8 inclusive.

The crude deficit for 12 months at the rates applying in the period January-October 1978 would be £1,605 million.

Orders for merchant vessels for UK registration

Donald Dewar (Glasgow, Garscadden) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he could estimate the percentage of total orders placed by British shipowners for merchant vessels in

Letters to the editor

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each of the last 10 years which had been placed with British shipyards.

Mr Clinton Davis gave the following information:

Thousand gross registered tons (GRT)

	a Total orders	b UK yards	c b as a percentage of a
1968	4 206	1 452	34.5
1969	5 473	1 721	31.4
1970	8 113	1 473	18.2
1971	2 862	833	29.1
1972	2 632	599	22.8
1973	6 167	3 737	60.6
1974	1 433	332	23.2
1975	338	44	13.0
1976	499	181	36.3
1977	434	351	80.9
1978 Jan-Sep	153	74	48.1

Of total orders placed in UK shipyards over the 10 year period the following proportions were for UK registration:

	Per cent		Per cent
1968	56.6	1973	85.8
1969	81.2	1974	38.5
1970	84.0	1975	60.3
1971	81.1	1976	45.0
1972	73.2	1977	72.4

Review of the ERDF

James Sillars (South Ayrshire) asked the Secretary of State for Industry when he expected a further review of the EEC regional fund allocations and criteria.

Mr Huckfield said that the criteria governing contributions from the European regional development fund to member states were contained in a European council regulation which was expected to be re-examined by the council before 1 January 1981. Money was allocated to the fund annually under the communities' budget procedures.

PO charges on internal telephones

Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if the increase of 79 per cent by the Post Office of charges for internal telephone systems in the current year fell within the terms of his price policy.

Mr Huckfield said that he understood that the Price Commission was notified of the intention to increase charges for internal telephone systems and decided to take no action under the Price Commission Act 1977. The internal telephone systems, which were not part of the Post Office's monopoly services, were not a main service and not therefore covered by the corporation's current freeze on main telecommunications and postal prices. Pricing decisions were a matter for the corporation itself but he understood that this increase, which was the first for three and a half years, was necessitated by the heavy losses which the service was making.

Minimum noise routes for London airports

Geoffrey Johnson Smith (East Grinstead) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations had been made to him calling for the examination of possible alternatives to minimum noise routes for aircraft using London airports.

Mr Clinton Davis said that a number of such representations had been made in the past and alternatives to the present minimum noise routes for aircraft departing from the London airports had been considered, but he did not think that the present routeing structure should be changed unless it was necessary for safety reasons or unless it would result in overall environmental benefits. This policy had been endorsed by the independent noise advisory council.

Development of tourism

Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would seek to make financial assistance under section 4 of the Development of Tourism Act 1969 available to projects outside the development areas, and Jim Lester (Beeston) asked what plans he had for including expenditure on tourism under the regional grant system to encourage employment.

Mr Smith said that this assistance, which was administered by the national tourists boards, had always in the past been available only to projects in the development areas and special devepment areas. He had reviewed this arrangement with the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales, and they had agreed to extend the scheme to intermediate areas as well. This meant that projects throughout the assisted areas would be eligible to be considered by the tourist boards for financial assistance. The eligible areas would be reviewed in two to three years' time. The £9.4 million of financial assistance approved so far for tourism projects by the English Tourist Board was expected to create over 2800 additional jobs. (See page 434.)

Thursday, 23 November

Orders of merchant ships for UK registration

Neil Kinnock (Bedwellty) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the total in gross tons of new orders by United Kingdom shipowners in 1977 and up to the latest available date in 1978, and the total new orders given by United Kingdom shipowners to United Kingdom yards in 1977 and 1978; and what were the amounts in compensated gross tons.

Mr Huckfield gave the following information:

'000

	1977	1978 Jan-Sep
Total orders:		
Gross tons	434	153
Compensated gross tons	514	144
Orders placed in UK shipyards		
Gross tons	351	74
Compensated gross tons	408	60

Profitability of British industry

Tom Arnold (Hazel Grove) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what information he had on the profitability of British industry over the past 12 months; and what estimate he had made for 1979.

Mr Huckfield replied that the latest available estimate of the rate of return at replacement cost, ie real profitability, of industrial and commercial companies related to 1977 and was 4½ per cent. Excluding North Sea oil and gas activities it was 4 per cent. Such data as were now available for the first half of 1978 suggested that real profitability over the past 12 months had been much the same as in 1977. It was not the practice to publish forecasts of rates of return.

Activities of finance houses

Walter Johnson (Derby South) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he would introduce legislation to regulate the activities of finance houses who offered loans to householders at high and escalating interest rates.

Mr Fraser said that the Consumer Credit Act 1974 contained provisions governing the activities of finance houses in relation to loans to individuals. Some of the provisions were already in operation; he hoped to make others operative soon.

Amendments on disclosure thresholds

Timothy Smith (Ashfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many unrepealed regulations had been made under section 454(1) of the Companies Act 1948; if he would now make regulations to amend all those figures which constitute disclosure thresholds to restore their real value at the time of their introduction or last amendment; and if he would seek to amend, in particular, section 8 of the Companies Act 1967 (employees receiving more than £10,000 a year), paragraph 13(A)(5) of schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1948 (turnover not in excess of £250,000), and section 6(6) of the Companies Act 1967 (director's emoluments not in excess of £15,000).

Mr Smith said that there were four. It was intended to propose amendments to the disclosure thresholds in a consultative document to be published early next year on the implementation of the EEC fourth directive on company accounts and related matters.

Trade under UK and Soviet flags

David Hunt (Wirral) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what percentage share by tonnage of the direct cargo liner trade between the United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was carried in Soviet flag and United Kingdom flag ships, giving comparable figures for 1977, 1976 and 1975; what representations had been made to the Russian government; and with what success.

Mr Smith said that the shares by tonnage were as follows:

Per cent

	1975	1976	1977
UK flag	9.2	9.1	12.5
USSR flag	84.7	82.8	85.6

Agreement had been reached when the Soviet Minister of Merchant Marine had visited the United Kingdom in June 1977 that there should be a move towards parity of carryings between UK and Soviet ships. The introduction of a container vessel in the United Baltic Corporation service between Leningrad and Tilbury in July 1977 and contributed towards the upturn in favour of the United Kingdom during 1977. It was expected that this trend would continue throughout 1978. Statistical returns for the first half-year showed UK flag share at 15.1 per cent and Soviet flag share at 81.7 per cent.

ECGD losses

Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many instances there had been in each of the past three years of losses by the Export Credits Guarantee Department because of the failure of firms to deliver goods to foreign customers; and if he would specify the losses involved.

Mr Meacher explained that the Export Credits Guarantee Department was not liable for losses caused by failure to deliver goods to foreign customers, unless the insured firm was unable, on demand, to repay export finance in respect of which the department had issued a guarantee to a bank for the advances in question. In such circumstances, the department had paid sums of £49,000, £26,000 and £161,000 to banks in 1975, 1976 and 1977 respectively: the two firms concerned were now in liquidation and had so far not met the department's demand for repayment.

Exclusive televising of football matches

Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he had received the report of the Director-General of Fair Trading's investigation into the Independent Television contract with the Football League for the exclusive televising of football matches; and whether he would ask the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the Independent Television contract with the Football League for the exclusive televising of football matches.

Mr Fraser said that he had not. He understood that the Director-General of Fair Trading was making inquiries into this agreement with a view to deciding whether the provisions of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act applied.

Agreements by reinforcement manufacturers

Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what representations he had received from the British Reinforcement Manufacturers' Association regarding agreements on prices and market shares.

Mr Fraser replied that the British Reinforcement Manufacturers' Association had made an application for the exemption of a proposed agreement from the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976 and he had recently met some of its members to discuss the matter. The secretary of state would make his decision on the application in the light of all the criteria set out in section 29 of the act and after he had received the views of users.

Number of companies registered

Timothy Smith (Ashfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many companies were registered at the latest available date; of these, how many were in the liquidation or in the course of removal; of the effective balance, how many were public companies and how many private, how many trading and how many dormant; and of those trading, how many had a turnover of £250,000 or less, how many £250,000-£10 million and how many in excess of £10 million.

Mr Smith gave the following information:

	On register	In liquidation or course of removal	Effective number on register
England and Wales			
Public	15 439	1 120	14 319
Private	657 581	76 221	581 360
	673 020	77 341	595 679
Scotland			
Public	1 380	64	1 316
Private	31 598	1 398	30 200
	32 978	1 462	31 516

Source: Department of Trade's annual report 'Companies in 1977'.

Information relating to the number of dormant companies or the turnover of trading companies is not readily available.

Consumer credit act

John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would list those sections

of the consumer credit act which were now in force and those which had still to be brought into effect, with an indication of what action he proposed to implement them.

Mr Fraser said that the following sections were in force: 1-42, 48-51, 56, 75, 82, 106, 113, 137-140, 145-150 and 152-193. The following sections were still to be brought into effect: 43-47, 52-55, 57-74, 76-81, 83-105, 107-112, 114-136, 141-144 and 151. (This list included certain sections conferring as yet unused regulation-making powers.) He hoped to make orders and regulations early in 1979 bringing into operation sections 43-47 and 52 (which related to advertisements and quotations). Replies to consultation papers on proposals relating to some 20 sections including 95 and 97 (rebate on early settlement) were under consideration. A consultation paper with a view to implementing sections 66 and 83-85 had been circulated in November. Consultation papers on regulations under section 60 (form and content of agreements) and other provisions were being prepared.

Soviet maritime threat

David Hunt (Wirral) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what progress he had made with the other EEC members on agreeing co-ordinated defence measures to meet the Soviet maritime threat; and if he would make a statement; what steps his department had taken to protect British shipping from the Soviet maritime threat in the three years since the publication of the General Council of British Shipping's leaflet 'Red Ensign versus Red Flag'; and what progress he had made over this period; what additional information he had obtained in the last 12 months on the extent of the Soviet maritime threat; and if he was satisfied with his department's present system of monitoring the liner shipping activities of the Soviet merchant fleet; what progress he had made in the government's pursuit of an improved statistical reporting system for all members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to monitor the increasing market share captured by Comecon liners; how many Russian ships were operating as cross traders in the international liner trades; what was their tonnage; and if he would give comparable figures for 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977, respectively; and what additional information he hoped to gain from the proposed EEC system for monitoring the Soviet maritime threat.

Mr Smith replied that the effect of Soviet liner companies acting as cross traders in the UK direct trade routes could be quantified, but no official data was available from which to quantify this effect on all the international liner cross-trades. He was unable to give the number and tonnage of Soviet ships operating on the liner cross-trades in recent years. Official Soviet statistics showed that the volume of cargo carried by their ships in these trades had expanded 10-fold in the period 1965-76 but had now stabilised. Western shipowner sources confirmed only a marginal increase in the level of services offered by Soviet shipping lines during the past 12-month period. The government had looked into data collection on Soviet carryings in the liner cross-trades within the OECD. Although difficulties had arisen because of the incompatibility of data collection and analysis undertaken by member countries, some progress had been made and he was hopeful that experience gained in the proposed EEC monitoring exercise would help here. The draft EEC proposals were to monitor carriage of cargo by all liner carriers on designated trade routes serving the EEC. These proposals had been placed before the scrutiny committees and had been considered in Brussels at the council of transport ministers on 23 and 24 November. The proposed routes included the one to east Africa on which the Soviet Besta Line operated. He expected to obtain additional information on that route following analysis of the data collected.

He was satisfied that the Department of Trade's present system for monitoring the activities of the Soviet merchant fleet on the United Kingdom's direct trades was sufficiently thorough. The department had been able to monitor the extent of cargo carried by Soviet ships, by main commodity groupings, since January 1977. Measures had also been taken recently to correlate official data on trade routes to the international liner conference routes of which British lines were members. This would make a valuable contribution to the proposed EEC system. The United Kingdom saw the draft EEC proposals as an essential precursor to defensive action on an EEC-wide basis, should this be necessary. Britain believed that the EEC should pursue its intent to examine the practicalities of introducing countermeasures. The Department of Trade had also pursued its objectives through bi-lateral discussions with the Soviet maritime authorities. In the last two years, there had been several meetings at ministerial and official level, the latter including representatives from the industry. Some improvement in the United Kingdom share of bi-lateral liner traffic had been obtained, but progress towards an accommodation on Soviet cross-trade activity had so far been disappointing.

Joint service maritime HQ

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether the joint exercise with the Department of Defence, aimed at improving preparedness in dealing with oil pollution at sea as announced on 2 August, had yet been arranged at the joint service maritime headquarters.

Mr Clinton Davis said that while such an exercise had not yet been arranged, the *Christos Bitas* operation provided an opportunity for close and fruitful collaboration between his department and the joint service maritime headquarters at Plymouth, the results of which were being carefully studied.

Oil dispersal technology

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he was aware of any technology which enabled oil to be removed from the sea in sea conditions in excess of force 3; and what advantage his department would see in such technology.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that the ecological benefits of recovering, rather than dispersing, oil were fully recognised. It was for that reason that the Warren Spring Laboratory was devoting a major part of its research and development effort to devising a system capable of recovering oil in the often turbulent waters around the UK's coasts. The Warren Spring Laboratory had evaluated several of the more promising items of equipment available on the market, but his department was not aware of any system that was currently on offer which had demonstrated a capability consistently to recover worthwhile quantities of oil in such conditions.

Friday, 24 November

EEC commission and oil pollution

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would make a statement on the differences proposed by his department, and the measures proposed by the EEC commission, to deal with oil pollution at sea.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the EEC commission was currently undertaking a number of preliminary studies aimed at identifying any gaps in the arrangements for dealing with oil pollution at sea which might appropriately be filled by community action. The commission might in due course put forward proposals on the basis of these studies.

Contingencies planning and operations unit

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he had yet fully established the contingencies planning and operations unit within his department, to take charge of operations to deal with pollution at sea.

Mr Smith replied that the United Kingdom had already ratified both the 1969 international convention which made shipowners strictly liable, within certain monetary limits, for oil pollution damage from ships carrying bulk oil cargoes, and the 1971 convention which established an international fund, financed by the major oil importers in contracting states, to provide (from mid-February 1979) supplementary compensation up to an aggregate limit of £19½ million per incident. Whilst these compensation arrangements were restricted to damage caused to the United Kingdom and its territorial sea, they extended also to the cost of reasonable measures to prevent or minimise such damage, wherever those measures were taken.

Salvage tugs

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many salvage tugs were presently available: a in British ownership and b in British ports, which were capable of fulfilling the tasks for which the French salvage tug presently stationed off Brittany was equipped; and where these tugs were normally based.

Mr Smith said that he was aware of 16 salvage tugs owned by British companies with a comparable bollard pull to that of the French salvage tug currently stationed off Brittany. Their actual location depended on the task in hand. In addition foreign salvage tugs were often found in or near UK waters.

Cost of 'Eleni V'

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was his latest estimate of the cost to: a central government and b local authorities of dealing with the pollution caused by the Eleni V; how much has so far been recovered; and how much he expected to be able eventually to recover and from whom.

Mr Smith said that whilst final costs were not yet known, it was estimated that the expenditure by central government and the local authorities concerned in dealing with the bow section of the Greek tanker *Eleni V* and with the associated oil pollution of the sea and coastline would be of the order of £2½ million and £1 million respectively. It was not possible at this stage to identify separately that portion which arises solely from oil pollution clearance. No claim had yet been made for the recovery of this expenditure, which was expected to be recovered in full from the shipowner of his insurer, backed up as necessary by the Cristal scheme.

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he endorsed as a general principle, the philosophy that 'The polluter pays'; and how he interpreted this, in practical terms, in relation to pollution created by oil spills at sea.

Mr Smith replied that he did and that the present system of liability and compensation for marine oil pollution damage involved both shipowners and oil companies, the former under the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution) Act 1971 and the latter under the Merchant Shipping Act 1974. These acts implemented two international conventions, of 1969 and 1971 respectively.

Review on oil pollution

Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade pursuant to his department's 'Review of contingency measures to deal with accidents at sea causing oil pollution', why he indicated that the only standby facility was seaborne, rather than airborne; and what steps were being taken to create a helicopter-borne capability which could deal with the pollution by transferring equipment to ships in the area.

Mr Smith said that as the review had made clear, work was continuing on a fuller assessment of the potential for using aircraft to spray oil dispersant. Ministry of Defence helicopters were available to transfer salvage equipment to stricken tankers, and were so used during the *Christos Bitas* operation. Because of limits on the weight that could be carried by helicopters and the size of most dispersant spraying vessels, it would only exceptionally be feasible to envisage equipping, or resupplying, them by helicopter at sea.

Turkish textile quotas

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was the 1978 quota for yarn from Turkey under the current multifibre arrangement; what percentage of this yarn had been imported already; and what was the 1977 quota.

Mr Meacher pointed out that there was no quota on imports of yarn from Turkey in 1978 under the multifibre arrangement. The EEC commission had negotiated an understanding with the Turkish textile industry last year that their exports of cotton yarn to the UK in 1978 would not exceed 3240 tonnes. Unfortunately this understanding had not been observed, and in September the commission had published a regulation suspending further imports into the UK in 1978. Total UK imports from Turkey in the first nine months of 1978 had been 164 per cent of the restraint level. The 1977 quota was 3367 tonnes.

EIB financial assistance

Mr W. W. Hamilton (Central Fife) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would publish details of financial assistance provided by the European Investment Bank for the development of telecommunications, respectively, in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and North East England.

Mr Huckfield gave the following information: Northern Ireland: £18.5 million to the Post Office for the development of the telecommunications network. Scotland: £17.3 million to the Post Office for the development of the telecommunications network. Wales: £17.5 million to the Post Office to help modernise and extend the telecommunications network in Wales and certain parts of the adjoining counties of England covered by the Wales and the Marches Telecommunications Board. North East England: £17.6 million to the Post Office for the improvements to the telecommunications network in the north of England.

European community news

'No final decision on EMS' – Callaghan

Construction of a zone of greater monetary stability could only be for the benefit of Europe and for the rest of the world, Prime Minister James Callaghan told the press at the end of the Anglo-French summit in Paris on 24 November.

Britain would like to see a scheme set up to achieve this which would embrace all members of the community, otherwise it could not be a community scheme. However, there were varying parts to such a scheme which might embrace some members but not all. Others would have to judge the moment at which they thought it right to enter.

'As you know,' Mr Callaghan said, 'we have particular problems concerned with the convergence of our economies with the need to ensure that the resources which are taken by the community are related more closely to capacity to pay. But basically, you may take it that we will wish to see a European monetary system soundly constructed so that it can be a servant of monetary stability, and that is the basis on which we have approached these discussions.'

Asked whether Britain would be joining the European monetary system on 1 January, Mr Callaghan said discussions and negotiations were still going on and that it would be discussed at the European council on 4 and 5 December. In addition, any first news about this would obviously follow the debate in the British parliament on 29 November.

Mr Callaghan said that he therefore thought that both the President of France and everyone else involved understood that Britain had not taken a final decision on EMS. They also understood that circumstances laid down at the Bremen summit represented Britain's circumstances both then and now.

On industrial co-operation, the Prime Minister said, and he knew he could speak for the French president, what he hoped to see was closer industrial co-operation between companies in Britain and in France. It was significant, he said, that the two biggest elements of co-operation so far had been intergovernmental, namely, the cross-channel electricity link and the Airbus. He added that he believed the Airbus was going to be an extremely valuable and satisfactory arrangement. 'We would like to see more private co-operation between companies now and I believe we should see it.'

Where multinational companies were concerned there was now close co-operation between the UK and French governments and this would be intensified because the restructuring of both the French and British industrial systems, which was going on at present, was especially sensitive to the operations of multinational companies.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. for this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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Britain and Italy find common ground

Prime Minister James Callaghan and Mr Andreotti, Prime Minister of Italy, agreed during Downing Street talks on 22 November that no EMS scheme could be durable without a parallel transfer of resources and a reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP) and of social policies.

They also agreed on their approach to the reform of the CAP and on the need for a transfer of resources within the community.

A good deal of common ground was also found to exist between Italy and Britain in their discussions on fishing, enlargement, and the mobility of labour within the community.

Mr Callaghan and Mr Andreotti also discussed the Anglo-US plan for Rhodesia.

This meeting was one of a series which Mr Callaghan had with leaders of European countries in preparation for the European council in Brussels on 4 and 5 December. He was accompanied by the chancellor, Denis Healey, and by agriculture minister John Silkin.

Mr Andreotti was accompanied by Mr Pandolfi, Minister for the Treasury, and Mr Baffi, governor of the Bank of Italy.

Mr Callaghan met Chancellor Schmidt in Bonn on 18 and 19 October, President Giscard d'Estaing in Paris on 24 November, Jack Lynch, Prime Minister of Eire, in London on 27 November, and Prime Minister of Luxembourg Gaston Thorn on 28 November.

The purpose of these meetings was to understand better the point of view of the member countries whose leaders will be attending the European council and to give them an indication of Britain's likely attitude there.

Green paper on EMS published

The government's views on the proposed European monetary system (EMS) are set out in a green paper (Cmnd. 7405) published on 24 November.

The green paper was debated in the House of Commons this week in preparation for the European council on 4 and 5 December (details will be published in next week's issue).

Intended to be read with the memorandum laid before the house by the chancellor on 1 November (see *Trade and Industry*, 17 November, page 337), it relates the proposals to the international monetary environment, describes the kind of system the government would like to see developed and discusses briefly the possible effect of a scheme, if the UK joins, on economic independence, the battle against inflation and the balance of payments and growth.

The paper points out that the choice to be made by the government in the coming weeks relates not to a European monetary system on the basis laid down at the European council in Bremen in July, but to the narrower issue of a particular exchange rate mechanism which is not yet fully negotiated.

The government has urged throughout the discussions, particularly those in relation to the exchange rate regime, that the system should be substantially different from the existing snake, believing this approach to be in the best interests of the community.

Two proposals

Because of the fundamental lack of symmetry in the obligations imposed by the parity grid of agreed exchange rates between the members of the system, the snake has a tendency to encourage deflationary policies overall. The paper explains the government's two main proposals for overcoming this disadvantage in the snake.

First, that exchange-rate obligations should be related to movements against a basket of community currencies. Each participating currency would be permitted to fluctuate within the agreed margin on either side of its

reference rate against the 'basket' of currencies comprising the European currency unit (Ecu), which will act as the *numeraire* of the system.

When a particular currency reached either of its margins, there would not necessarily be another currency at its own margin at the opposite end. The currency at the limit (whether strong or weak) would thus clearly be identified as the divergent currency. Only the divergent currency would be obliged to intervene so as to bring itself back within the margin, the paper proposes.

Other member states have not been prepared to accept that the 'basket' arrangement should be the sole basis of the exchange-rate regime, the paper points out. There has, however, been general support for the compromise arrangement described in the chancellor's memorandum. Under this arrangement, there would be a 'parity grid', but within this each currency would have an agreed narrower margin of fluctuation, about a reference rate determined in relation to the Ecu. When a currency reached its limit against the Ecu, this would be taken as an indication that it was a divergent currency.

The paper's second proposal is that divergent countries should not be able to demand early settlement of intervention debts due from another country whose currency was not also divergent. In addition, they would enter into immediate policy consultations with the other members of the sytem to determine what economic measures they should take to restore stability to the system, the paper says.

The green paper stresses the government's belief that the first requirement should be to shape the EMS so that it can accommodate all members of the community, even if that means some loss of uniformity and some difference in the provisions for various members. The discipline of the system would then be more effective because it would be durable. Symmetry in the obligations placed on the stronger and weaker members is equally in line with the community spirit, it points out. If the margins established for exchange rates are placed under strain by the exceptional strength of a strong currency which is fortified by a large surplus on the balance of payments, that should not automatically impose obligations on weaker members. The converse is also true; but in that case a loss of reserves and other pressures will in any case oblige the deficit country to take corrective action, the paper indicates.

The discussions that have taken place on technical questions have, it stresses, thrown light on the extent to which potential members of the system accept the practical implications of the 'fundamental truth' that the durability of any exchange-rate regime depends on concerted action to achieve greater compatibility in economic performance.

Finance ministers agree credit to support EMS

Finance ministers meeting in council in Brussels on 20 November reached agreement on the amount of credit – 25 billion European currency units – needed to support the proposed European monetary system (EMS).

Chancellor Denis Healey told the House of Commons on 22 November that the council's discussions on the system were based on a report by the monetary committee.

Mr Healey said he had emphasised the relevance to EMS of concerted action on growth, the need for balanced obligations between member states, and the importance of relating the system to global monetary stability.

The council, he said, had also considered a report by the economic policy committee on concurrent studies of the measures needed to strengthen the economies of the less prosperous member states in the context of EMS. With the support of the Irish and the Italians, Mr Healey said he argued that the European council on 4 and 5 December should decide on actions or commitments to give effect to the statement in the Bremen council's conclusions on 7 July (see *Trade and Industry*, 14 July, page 84), that such measures would be essential if the zone of monetary stability were to succeed.

Mr Healey pointed out that other member states were reluctant to commit themselves on the measures and it had been agreed that the presidency would submit a report of the different positions to the European council.

Increases to draft community budget approved

Increases to the draft community budget totalling 629 million European units of account (Eua) £396 million – in commitment appropriations and 322 million Eua – £203 million – in payment appropriations were accepted by the EEC budget council in Brussels on 20 November.

Replying to a parliamentary question in the House of Commons on 24 November, Joel Barnett, chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the council had considered the European parliament's amendments and proposed modifications to the 1979 draft budget. As amended, it provided for commitment appropriations of approximately 13 948 million Eua – £8,786 million – and payment appropriations of 13 175 million Eua – £8,299 million. The amendments and proposed modifications, approved by the European parliament on 25 October, sought to make certain changes in budget nomenclature and to increase commitment appropriations by approximately 2 272 million Eua – £1,431 million – and payment appropriations by 847 million Eua – £534 million.

Main amendments

The main amendments and modifications adopted by the parliament related to agricultural guidance and fisheries, the social fund, the regional development fund, food aid, aid to non-associated developing countries, the presentation of borrowing and lending operations, a global operational reserve and a special reserve relating to enlargement.

Mr Barnett told the house that the council had rejected or modified most of the parliament's proposals, although its amendment to increase aid to non-associates was accepted. As a result, commitment appropriations for this purpose had been increased by 50 million Eua – £31.5 million – to 133.62 million Eua – £84 million – and payment appropriations by 10.62 million Eua – £6.7 million – to 55.62 million Eua – £35 million – Mr Barnett said.

Social fund commitment

On the social fund, he said the council had agreed to increase commitment appropriations by 65 million Eua – £41 million – of which 42 million Eua – £26.5 million – was entered in chapter 100. This included an additional 32 million Eua for youth aid.

On the regional development fund (RDF), the parliament had proposed increases totalling 480 million Eua – £302 million – on commitments and 233 million Eua – £147 million – on payments. Some member states were opposed to any increase in the commitment provision decided by the council in July because this would lead to breaching the maximum rate of increase applicable to non-obligatory expenditure, Mr Barnett added.

To prevent an increase in commitment appropriations above the prescribed maximum rate of increase applicable to non-obligatory expenditure, one member state had tried to block any increase for the RDF by invoking the 'Luxembourg compromise'. This permitted a member state to insist on unanimity on proposals of fundamental national importance, Mr Barnett explained.

Mr Barnett said he had suggested a compromise proposal which took account of both the European council's resolution at Bremen on resource transfers to the less prosperous member states, and its decision last December on the size of RDF. Since there had been a qualified majority neither to reject the parliament's amendments nor to accept his compromise proposal, the increases proposed by the parliament had been accepted, but opposition to exceeding the maximum rate had been maintained by some member states.

It was therefore probable, Mr Barnett added, that the level of commitment appropriations in 1979 for the RDF, with the appropriate implications for the maximum rate, would need to be discussed at the European council on 4 and 5 December, before a joint decision on the maximum rate could be taken by the council and the parliament before the budget was adopted.

Wide-ranging discussions at foreign affairs council

Preparation for the European council to be held in Brussels on 4 and 5 December was among business at the foreign affairs council in Brussels on 21 November, foreign secretary David Owen told the commons on 22 November.

Replying to a parliamentary question, Dr Owen said the council had considered the proposed European monetary system – including concurrent studies – and improvements to the common agricultural policy on which the commission was to make proposals.

The council, he said, had also invited the commission to press ahead with the Gatt multilateral trade negotiations on the understanding that no final conclusion could be reached until the problem of the United States' coun-

tervailing waiver had been satisfactorily resolved – see *Trade and Industry*, 29 September, page 730. (Commenting at a press conference in Brussels after the council, trade secretary John Smith said it was vitally important that the MTNs should succeed. The problem of the waiver meant a distinction between 'completing' the negotiations and 'concluding' them.)

Dr Owen told the house that, before the next EEC-Japan high-level consultations, due to take place on 8 and 9 December, the council had conducted a brief review of the community's relations with Japan. The commission had been asked to report back on the consultations to the 19 December council.

There had also been discussion of the commission's proposals for negotiating directives for a new EEC-Yugoslavia agreement. The council had also taken stock of the progress of negotiations for a new convention between the community and the Association of African, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP). It had been agreed to invite the ACP to take part in a ministerial negotiating conference before the end of the year.

The community's generalised scheme for preferences for 1979 was remitted back to officials for further study as was a mandate for the negotiation of a Euratom-Australia nuclear safeguard agreement, with a view to reaching agreement on the latter very shortly.

Dr Owen said there had been an extensive discussion on steel, particularly on the renewal of the anti-crisis measure – the Davignon plan. After some discussion of the arrangements for the extension of third country agreements, the mandate for their conclusion would be considered further on 19 December.

Note had been taken of the progress of the common fund negotiating conference currently being held in Geneva, Dr Owen added. Foreign ministers had also discussed a draft mandate for the review of community procedures in the light of community enlargement to 12 (the 'three wise men' proposals). This would be considered further at the European council, Dr Owen said.

On the common fisheries policy (CFP), the council had noted the continuing UK reserve on the draft framework agreements with third countries, pending progress on outstanding aspects of the internal regime. It had emphasised the need for progress on CFP as a whole at the fisheries council on 23 and 24 November.

It had been agreed that the draft directive concerning the freedom of establishment of architects would be examined further before being discussed again at the December foreign affairs council.

Other items discussed included adjustments in duty and tax exemptions for international travellers and for small gift packets. This was intended to offset the effect of the changeover from the old unit of account to the European unit of account in the customs sphere on 1 January. Progress of the conciliation procedure taking place with the European assembly on the regional development fund regulation for 1978–80 and the regulation on aid to non-associates had also been reviewed.

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Proposal soon to reduce MCA co-efficients

A reduction in the co-efficients through which monetary compensatory amounts (MCA) are applied to imports of bacon and other products processed from pig meat will be proposed shortly.

Replying to a parliamentary question on the agriculture council held in Brussels on 20 to 21 November, agriculture minister John Silkin said that he had reminded the European commission of its promises to consider changes in the co-efficient. The commission had told the council that a reduction would benefit UK producers and processors.

Mr Silkin also said that he had raised in the council the intended sale of 20 000 tonnes of fresh butter to the USSR with the benefit of export restitutions which would cost the community £20 million.

The commission had agreed that this sale demonstrated the need to tackle the problem of the EEC milk surplus and to look into the arrangements for the pre-fixation of export restitutions, which were an important factor in such large special sales.

Export restitution is a subsidy paid to an exporting country to encourage exports of goods that might otherwise be in surplus, or to enable exporting countries to sell goods at prices that compete favourably with prices on world markets.

In addition, the council had discussed further a package of proposals for changes in EEC arrangements for wine but no points of substance had been decided. The major outstanding points on olive oil had been agreed in principle and it seemed likely that the question would be finally settled when the council meets in December.

EEC-Asean co-operation talks to begin shortly

Exploratory discussions on the content of a possible co-operation agreement should begin shortly, it was agreed at the first meeting between the EEC and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) in Brussels on 20 and 21 November.

The association includes Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Attended by foreign secretary David Owen and foreign minister of state Frank Judd, the meeting resulted from an initiative begun during the UK presidency in the first half of last year and accorded with the British view that the EEC should be more outward looking. Both sides exchanged views on a wide range of political and economic questions.

Speaking on behalf of the community, Hans Dietrich Genscher, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany, and president of the council, stressed the political aspect of the meeting. On the economic level, he added, there were a number of areas that lent themselves to co-operation which could be of benefit to both parties. Mr Genscher said he was willing to define common guidelines for future EEC-Asean co-operation.

Asean spokesman, Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, stressed that Asean countries were the biggest suppliers of rubber, palm oil, tropical wood and copra, supplying some 75 per cent of the world's exports in these products. He hoped the EEC would co-operate with Asean in processing these raw materials. In exchange, he added, Europe would be guaranteed a 'stable and regular' source of raw materials and the advantage of a relatively cheap and efficient labour force.

It was agreed to hold a further meeting at ministerial level at a later date.

Anti-dumping investigation opens

An anti-dumping investigation has been opened by the European commission based on allegations that dumping is being practised or that bounties or subsidies are being granted for imports of sodium carbonate originating in Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union, and that this is causing injury to a community industry.

The product falls under CCT heading 28.42 A II; Nimexe code: 28.42-31. Interested parties may make known their views in writing by 20 December 1978, in particular by replying to the questionnaire addressed to those known to be concerned and by providing supporting evidence.

Furthermore, the commission will hear parties directly concerned who so request when making known their views to the commission, provided they can show that they have an interest sufficient to entitle them to express their views more fully.

Representations should be sent to the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for External Relations, 200 rue de la Loi, B – 1049 Brussels, and should be copied to the Department of Trade's Anti-Dumping Unit at General Division 1, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66–74 Victoria Street, London SW1 6SJ.

The full text of the commission's announcement was published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. C 277, 21 November.

Euro MPs' salaries must be fixed before elections – Judd

Salaries of European parliament members should be related to those received by national parliamentarians, and should be subject to national taxation. In addition, allowances should be related to necessary expenditure, Frank Judd, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said in the house on 22 November.

Mr Judd said that the government had a very firm view that it was essential to resolve the issue before the elections so that those standing knew the terms of service. The government's view was that responsibility for

a final decision lay with ministers in the council. He hoped significant progress could be made in finalising the question by the end of the year.

The government believed it would be wrong in principle to go into the election campaign before the issue was resolved.

On the question of declaration of interests, Mr Judd said this was an issue of honour, whether in the house or in the European parliament. It was appropriate that the question should be decided within the context of the parliament itself.

Eight changes to EAC boundaries

Boundary changes have been made to eight European assembly constituencies (EACs) following representations received by the English boundary commission. The commission is also changing the name of EAC6 from Yorkshire Central to Yorkshire North.

The changes in the English constituencies are:

EACs 4 and 5, Easington parliamentary constituency is tranferred from Cleveland EAC to Durham EAC. Richmond (Yorks) is transferred from Durham EAC to Cleveland EAC; **EACs 24 and 32,** Rutland and Stamford are transferred from Cambridgeshire EAC to Lincolnshire EAC; **EACs 39 and 40,** The Chilterns (39) and Bedford and Hertford (40) have been replaced by Bedfordshire (39) and Hertfordshire (40); **EACs 60 and 61,** Enfield North and Enfield Edmonton are transferred from London North East to London North. Hackney Central, Hackney North and Stoke Newington, and Hackney South and Shoreditch are transferred from London North to London North East.

The home secretary laid the reports of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions for England and for Wales, containing their final recommendations for constituencies for the European Assembly elections on 7 June next year, before parliament on 23 November. Both commissions published their provisional recommendations on 21 and 22 May and invited comments. The English commission made these changes after considering the views they received.

The home secretary laid draft Orders in Council giving effect to the recommendations of both commissions in full with the reports. The draft orders have to be approved by both houses.

Under the provisions of the European Assembly Elections Act 1978, the commissions were required to divide England into 66 EACs and Wales into four. Each EAC has to consist of two or more whole parliamentary constituencies and have an electorate as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard where appropriate to special geographical considerations. The electoral quota (average) is obtained by dividing the total electorate for that part of the UK by the number of EACs for it. On this occasion, the electoral quota for England was 516 436 and for Wales 513 793.

The English commission's final recommendations, with 1977 electorates in brackets, are:

1 Northumbria EAC (517 633), comprising the parliamentary constituencies of Berwick-on-Tweed, Blyth, Hexham, Morpeth, Newcastle upon Tyne Central, Newcastle upon Tyne East, Newcastle upon Tyne North, Newcastle upon Tyne West, Wallsend.

2 South Tyne and Wear (508 140), Blaydon, Gateshead East, Gateshead West, Jarrow, South Shields, Sunderland North, Sunderland South, Tynemouth.

3 Cumbria (528 065), Barrow-in-Furness, Carlisle, Lancaster, Morcambe and Lonsdale, North Fylde, Penrith and the Border, Westmorland, Whitehaven, Workington.

4 Durham (543 186), Bishop Auckland, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Darlington, Durham, Easington, Houghton-le-Spring, North West Durham.

5 Cleveland (534 344), Cleveland and Whitby, Hartlepool, Richmond (Yorks), Scarborough, Teesside, Middlesbrough; Teesside, Redcar; Teesside, Stockton; Teesside, Thornaby.

6 Yorkshire North (475 076), Barkston Ash, Goole, Harrogate, Ripon, Skipton, Thirsk and Malton, York.

7 Humberside (505 356), Bridlington, Brigg and Scunthorpe, Haltemprice, Howden, Kingston upon Hull Central, Kingston upon Hull East, Kingston upon Hull West.

8 Lancashire Central (527 852), Blackpool North, Blackpool South, Chorley, Preston North, Preston South, South Fylde, Westhoughton, Wigan.

9 Lancashire East (466 393), Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Clitheroe, Darwen, Heywood and Royton, Nelson and Colne, Rossendale.

10 Yorkshire West (492 881), Bradford North, Bradford South, Bradford West, Brighouse and Spenborough, Halifax, Keighley, Shipley, Sowerby.

11 Leeds (483 473), Batley and Morley, Leeds East, Leeds North East, Leeds North West, Leeds South, Leeds South East, Leeds West, Pudsey.

12 Liverpool (476 292), Bootle, Liverpool, Edge Hill; Liverpool, Garston; Liverpool, Kirkdale; Liverpool, Scotland Exchange; Liverpool, Toxteth; Liverpool, Walton; Liverpool, Wavertree; Liverpool, West Derby.

13 Lancashire West (557 726), Crosby, Huyton, Ince, Ormskirk, St Helens, Southport, Widnes.

14 Greater Manchester West (533 910), Altrincham and Sale, Bolton East, Bolton West, Eccles, Farmworth, Leigh, Salford East, Salford West, Stretford.

15 Greater Manchester South (522 299), Cheadle, Manchester, Ardwick; Manchester, Blackley; Manchester Central; Manchester, Moss Side; Manchester, Openshaw; Manchester, Withington; Manchester, Wythenshawe, Stockport North, Stockport South.

16 Greater Manchester North (507 700), Ashton-under-Lyne, Bury and Radcliffe, Manchester, Gorton, Middleton and Prestwich, Oldham East, Oldham West, Rochdale, Stalybridge and Hyde.

17 Yorkshire South West (498 058), Colne Valley, Dewsbury, Hemsworth, Huddersfield East; Huddersfield West; Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford; Wakefield.

18 Yorkshire South (524 232), Barnsley, Dearne Valley, Doncaster, Don Valley, Penistone, Rotherham, Rother Valley.

19 Cheshire West (503 411), Bebington and Ellesmere Port, Birkenhead, City of Chester, Nantwich, Northwich, Wallasey, Wirral.

20 Cheshire East (494 759), Crewe, Hazel Grove, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Newton, Runcorn, Warrington.

21 Derbyshire (525 334), Belper, Bolsover, Derby North, Derby South, High Peak, Ilkeston, South East Derbyshire, West Derbyshire.

22 Sheffield (519 821), Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire, Sheffield, Attercliffe; Sheffield, Brightside; Sheffield, Hallam; Sheffield, Heeley; Sheffield, Hillsborough; Sheffield, Park.

23 Nottingham (503 787), Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Beeston, Mansfield, Nottingham East, Nottingham North, Nottingham West.

24 Lincolnshire (535 557), Gainsborough, Grantham, Grimsby, Holland with Boston, Horncastle, Lincoln, Louth, Rutland and Stamford.

25 Salop and Stafford (475 456), Ludlow, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Oswestry, Shrewsbury, South West Staffordshire, Stafford and Stone, The Wrekin.

26 Staffordshire East (506 910), Burton, Cannock, Leek, Lichfield and Tamworth, Stoke-on-Trent Central, Stoke-on-Trent North, Stoke-on-Trent South.

27 Midlands West (544 486), Dudley East, Dudley West, Halesowen and Stourbridge, Walsall North, Walsall South, Wolverhampton North East, Wolverhampton South East, Wolverhampton South West.

28 Birmingham North (543 066), Aldridge-Brownhills, Birmingham, Erdington; Birmingham, Perry Barr; Birmingham, Stechford; Sutton Coldfield, Warley East, Warley West, West Bromwich East, West Bromwich West.

29 Birmingham South (519 555), Birmingham, Edgbaston; Birmingham, Hall Green; Birmingham, Handsworth; Birmingham, Ladywood; Birmingham, Northfield; Birmingham, Selly Oak; Birmingham, Small Heath; Birmingham, Sparkbrook; Birmingham, Yardley.

30 Midlands East (470 656), Blaby, Bosworth, Loughborough, Meriden, Nuneaton, Rugby.

31 Leicester (508 783), Carlton, Leicester East, Leicester South, Leicester West, Melton, Newark, Rushcliffe.

32 Cambridgeshire (485 734), Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Isle of Ely, Peterborough, Wellingborough.

33 Norfolk (495,734), North Norfolk, North West Norfolk, Norwich North, Norwich South, South Norfolk, South West Norfolk, Yarmouth.

34 Suffolk (512 420), Bury St Edmunds, Eye, Harwich, Ipswich, Lowestoft, Sudbury and Woodbridge.

35 Hereford and Worcester (506 225), Bromsgrove and Redditch, Hereford, Kiddersminster, Leominster, South Worcestershire, West Gloucestershire, Worcester.

36 The Cotswolds (502 268), Banbury, Cheltenham, Cirencester and Tewkesbury, Gloucester, Mid-Oxon, Oxford, Stroud.

37 Midlands Central (478 412), Coventry North East, Coventry North West, Coventry South East, Coventry South West, Solihull, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick and Leamington.

38 Northamptonshire (510 007), Aylesbury, Buckingham, Daventry, Harborough, Kettering, Northampton North, Northampton South.

39 Bedfordshire (501 217), Bedford, Hemel Hempstead, Hitchin, Luton East, Luton West, Mid-Bedfordshire, South Bedfordshire.

40 Hertfordshire (518 172), East Hertfordshire, Hertford and Stevenage, St Albans, South Hertfordshire, South West Hertfordshire, Watford, Welwyn and Hatfield.

41 Essex South West (466 636), Basildon, Brentwood and Ongar, Chelmsford, Epping Forest, Harlow, Thurrock.

42 Essex North East (491 108), Braintree, Colchester, Maldon, Saffron Walden, South East Essex, Southend East, Southend West.

43 Bristol (523 268), Bristol North East, Bristol North West, Bristol South, Bristol South East, Bristol West, Chippenham, Kingswood, South Gloucestershire.

44 Upper Thames (520 762), Abingdon, Devizes, Henley, Newbury, Reading North, Reading South, Swindon.

45 Thames Valley (516 351), Beaconsfield, Chesham and Amersham, Eton and Slough, Spelthorne, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Wycombe.

46 Cornwall and Plymouth (483 078), Bodmin, Falmouth and Camborne, North Cornwall, Plymouth, Devonport; Plymouth, Drake; Plymouth Sutton, St Ives, Truro.

47 Devon (523 147), Exeter, Honiton, North Devon, Tiverton, Torbay, Totnes, West Devon.

48 Somerset (535 121), Bath, Bridgwater, North Somerset, Taunton, Wells, Weston-super-Mare, Yeovil.

49 Wessex (545 266), Bournemouth East, Bournemouth West, Christchurch and Lymington, North Dorset, Poole, South Dorset, Westbury, West Dorset.

50 Hampshire West (570 173), Basingstoke, Eastleigh, New Forest, Salisbury, Southampton, Itchen; Southampton, Test; Winchester.

51 Wight and Hampshire East (568 525), Aldershot, Fareham, Farnham, Gosport, Isle of Wight, Petersfield, Portsmouth North, Portsmouth South.

52 Surrey (548 780), Chertsey and Walton, Dorking, Epsom and Ewell, Esher, Guildford, North West Surrey, Reigate, Woking.

53 Sussex West (548 814), Arundel, Chichester, Havant and Waterloo, Horsham and Crawley, Mid-Sussex, Shoreham, Worthing.

54 Sussex East (531 112), Brighton, Kemptown; Brighton, Pavilion; Eastbourne, East Grinstead, Hastings, Hove, Lewes, Rye.

55 Kent West (564 774), Dartford, East Surrey, Gillingham, Gravesend, Rochester and Chatham, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling.

56 Kent East (554 792), Ashford, Canterbury, Dover and Deal, Faversham, Folkestone and Hythe, Maidstone, Thanet East, Thanet West.

57 London West (529 106), Ealing, Acton; Ealing, North; Ealing, Southall; Hillingdon, Hayes and Harlington; Hillingdon, Ruislip-Northwood; Hillingdon, Uxbridge; Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth; Hounslow, Feltham and Heston.

58 London North West (510 483), Barnet, Chipping Barnet; Barnet, Hendon North; Barnet, Hendon South; Brent East, Brent North, Brent South, Harrow Central, Harrow East, Harrow West.

59 London Central (519 301), Camden, Hampstead; Camden, Holborn and St Pancras South; Camden, St Pancras North; City of London and Westminster South; City of Westminster, Paddington; City of Westminister, St Marylebone; Hammersmith, Fulham; Hammersmith North, Kensington and Chelsea, Chelsea; Kensington and Chelsea, Kensington.

60 London North (534 371), Barnet, Finchley; Enfield, Edmonton; Enfield North; Enfield, Southgate; Haringey, Hornsey; Haringey, Tottenham; Haringey, Wood Green; Islington Central, Islington North, Islington South and Finsbury.

61 London North East (532 782), Hackney Central, Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Hackney South and Shoreditch; Newham North-West, Newham South, Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow; Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar; Waltham Forest, Chingford; Waltham Forest, Leyton; Waltham Forest, Walthamstow.

62 London East (546 338), Barking, Barking, Dagenham; Havering, Hornchurch; Havering, Romford; Havering, Upminster; Newham North-East; Redbridge, Ilford North; Redbridge, Ilford South; Redbridge, Wanstead and Woodford.

63 London South West (525 815), Kingston upon Thames, Kingston upon Thames Surbiton, Lambeth Central, Lambeth Vauxhall, Richmond-upon-Thames, Richmond; Richmond upon Thames, Twickenham; Wandsworth, Battersea North; Wandsworth, Battersea South; Wandsworth, Putney; Wandsworth.

64 London South (506 322), Croydon Central, Croydon North East, Croydon North West, Croydon South, Merton, Mitcham and Morden; Merton, Wimbledon; Sutton and Cheam; Sutton, Carshalton.

65 London South Inner (523 479), Greenwich, Lambeth, Norwood; Lambeth, Streatham; Lewisham, Deptford; Lewisham East, Lewisham West, Southwark, Bermondsey; Southwark, Dulwich; Southwark, Peckham.

66 London South East (500 717), Bexley, Bexleyheath; Bexley, Erith and Crayford; Bexley, Sidcup; Bromley, Beckenham; Bromley, Chislehurst; Bromley, Orpington; Bromley, Ravensbourne; Greenwich, Woolwich East; Greenwich, Woolwich West.

Wales

The Welsh commission's final recommendations with 1977 electorates in brackets, are:

1 North Wales (Gogledd Cymru) (488 731), comprising the parliamentary constituencies of, Anglesey, Caernarvon, Conway, Denbigh, West Flint, East Flint, Merioneth, Wrexham, Montgomery.

2 Mid and West Wales (Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru) (486 916), Cardigan, Brecon and Radnor, Pembroke, Carmarthan, Llanelli, Gower, Swansea West, Swansea East.

3 South-east Wales (De-ddwyrain Cymru) (546 391), Rhondda, Aberdare, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Ebbw Vale, Bedwellty, Abertillery, Pontypool, Newport, Monmouth.

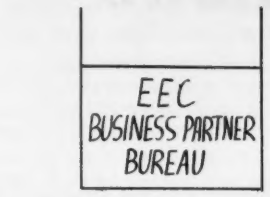
4 South Wales (De Cymru) (533 134), Neath, Aberavon, Ogmore, Pontypridd, Barry, Cardiff North West, Cardiff North, Cardiff West, Cardiff South East.

Choosing a community business partner

The Commission of the European Communities set up the Business Co-operation Centre to encourage co-operation between firms in different member states wishing to increase competitiveness and respond to the opportunities opened up by access to the community's markets. Co-operation is defined as pooling one or more activities of partner firms: for example, in research and development, supplies, production, marketing and sales and management.

A firm seeking the centre's help will be asked to provide certain information about itself, and to define exactly what type of partner and what type of co-operation it wants. All the information supplied, and any inquiries received, are treated as strictly confidential, and no names are revealed without the agreement of all parties. The centre will search its files for a suitable partner, and if the application cannot be matched with an offer already registered, will, if the firm agrees, circulate a summary of the firm's requirements, with no names mentioned to 'correspondents' in every community country.

Readers wishing to obtain further information about the requests for co-operation below should write direct to the centre at the following address, quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested: Business Co-operation Centre, rue Archimede 17, B-1040 Brussels. The centre makes no charge for its services.



'As my adhesive floor-coverings have proved so incompatible with his furniture, we're applying for a divorce.'

Concrete plants (BRE/4945/31)
Austrian manufacturer of industrial concrete plants, continuous conveyors, batchers, silos and accessories and screens, with a turnover of 140 million Austrian shillings and a workforce of 220, seeks partners in Great Britain, Scandinavian countries, preferably with fewer than 500 employees, and active in the manufacture of bag-filling machines, plastic-film shrinking machines, equipment for waste treatment, and/or equipment for the production of concrete blocks and other construction material, with a view to co-operation in technology, marketing, sales and development of new technologies, alternatively know-how sharing. Languages: German, English, French.

Steel construction system (BRE/5482/314)
Austrian manufacturer of a patented steel construction system of ready-for-use single and multistorey buildings, with a turnover of 40 million Austrian shillings and a workforce of 10, seeks partners in Great Britain, Scandinavian countries, general contractors or engineering companies with a workforce of up to 1000 people, for co-operation in form of licencing or know-how agreements. Languages: German, English, French.

Electromechanical equipment (BRE/5428/37)
Israeli company, active in manufacturing, assembling and testing of mechanical, electromechanical and hydraulic components and accessories for aircraft and heavy military vehicles (under know-how agreements), turnover $2.5 million, 125 empoyees, is interested in joint venture(s) in the field of medical, optical or hydraulic instruments, alternatively to act as a sub-contractor for precision machinery.

Furniture (BRE/5370/46)
Italian group comprising three manufacturing companies and one marketing company for office, hotel and domestic furniture, having a workforce of approximately 500 and a turnover equivalent to 15 000 million lira, seeks British or Canadian associate. The associate should already have a sales network in the major industrial centres of its own country and be prepared to examine with the Italian group possible ways of broadening the range of products offered on international markets. Languages: English, German, French.

Hose and pipe connectors (BRE/5272/31)
French limited company manufacturing rapid hose and pipe connectors in solid brass, for instant coupling, capable of resisting traction of over 500 kg (by means of a continuous peripheral locking) sold in France by an associated sales company, with a turnover of 3.4 million francs and with 15 persons employed, seeks a European partner, which could be a manufacturer of different kinds of connectors (for an exchange or grant of a licence) or a firm in the hydraulic or pneumatic fields, or a distributor of industrial equipment. In the two latter cases the object of the co-operation is to be defined jointly. Languages: French, English.

Adhesives (BRE/5182/25)
Italian family company engaged in the chemical sector producing adhesives for all types of floor and wall coverings for dwellings, seeks a partner in the UK. The co-operation could consists of the exchange of sales networks and/or rhe appointment of joint agents for third countries (where the partners' products are complementary to the Italian's) or alternatively it could consist of the creation of joint venture production unit(s) in the third countries, in the case where the partner is engaged in the same sector. Languages: Italian, English.

Slide valves (BRE/5176/322)
French private company manufacturing slide-valve fitted pneumatic transmission and distribution systems (90 per cent of turnover) and other products (jocks, valves, fluid logic systems, pneumatic information sensors, connectors), with a turnover of 16.5 million francs (excluding tax) and with 140 persons employed (12 salesmen), seeks a British, Swedish, or Canadian partner of similar size. The partner could be a manufacturer of complementary products, such as connectors for low-pressure compressed air or hydraulic equipment. The co-operation would envisage reciprocal sale of partners' products. Languages: French, English.

Linen (BRE/5434/43)
French limited company manufacturing linen-yarn for haberdashery (16 per cent of turnover), darning-wool (12 per cent), synthetic and cotton thread for the haberdashery trade (26 per cent), the same for industry (29 per cent), and linen and canvas printed for ready embroidery, to make tapestries, cushions, bags, etc. (17 per cent), with products sold all over France through 11 exclusive representatives and two sales organisations, seeks a British, Irish or Danish partner, same size or smaller, manufacturing sewing or darning threads or yarns. The co-operation would envisage reciprocal sales of partners' products and joint research into new markets. Languages: French, English, German.

Drinks (BRE/5304/42)
Italian limited company engaged in the alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks sector, with 50 persons employed and a turnover of 2500 million lira, seeks a British or German co-operation partner in the production field. The co-operation could consist of production on behalf of the partner of either alcoholic or non-alcoholic products, under licence. Languages: German, English.

Cotton dyers (BRE/5346/437)
French limited company engaged in the dyeing of cotton thread and selling it to mills and the hosiery industry, with a turnover of 10 million francs (production of 600 tonnes pa), seeks a larger European partner with a view to being integrated. Lanugages: French, English.

Beer coolers (BRE/5214/328)
Dutch private company, 85 people employed, turnover 12 m Guilders, in production of (beer) cooling units for licensed establishments, seeks partner in Great Britain, having good connections with brewery and catering industries and technical capability, which would, preferably as a joint venture, to be the sales, installation and service agent for the Dutch company's products.

BRE/5152/83)
Italian business consultancy company, with five full-time employees, operating in the north east of Italy as an adviser to roughly 40 international marketing undertakings, seeks European partner. The partner should be an undertaking of the same size, prepared to exchange information and agree to the use by each partner of the other's agents and representatives. Languages: French and English.

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Overseas trade news

BOTB chairman in 'Export United' visit to north Wales . . .

Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, visited established exporting firms in north Wales on 16 November to discuss prospects for exports from the area in the future and to see the companies' operations.

His first call was at Graesser Salicylates, Sandycroft, which specialises in the production of acetylsalicylic acid, paracetamol and allied fine chemicals. The company, which employs 270 people, is a subsidiary of Nicholas International. It sells to all parts of the world, including China, and last year exports accounted for 50 per cent of all sales.

Sir Frederick then called on BICC Power Cables at Wrexham, which produces a range of products including all forms of insulated cables and wires, and underground distribution cables. BICC Power Cables exports over a wide area of the world but has achieved significant penetration in the Middle East, Far East and African markets. A rapid growth in exports during the early 1970s was recognised by a Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1975. Some 55 per cent of last year's turnover was exported and the company now employs approximately 1300 people in Wrexham.

Egatube at St Asaph was the chairman's last call. Egatube produces plastic electrical conduit tubing, trunking and junction boxes for electrical installations in construction projects. The company was first established in Wales in 1962 and employs 250 people. Almost a quarter of last year's turnover was earned from exports, and the company also has its own manufacturing facilities in Kenya, South Africa and Barbados.

Sir Frederick's visit was under the banner of the 'Export United' campaign launched by the Trades Union Congress, the Confederation of British Industry and the British Overseas Trade Board to continue the impetus of 'Export Year' which was supported by about 120 firms in Wales.

. . . and Thorn launches campaign

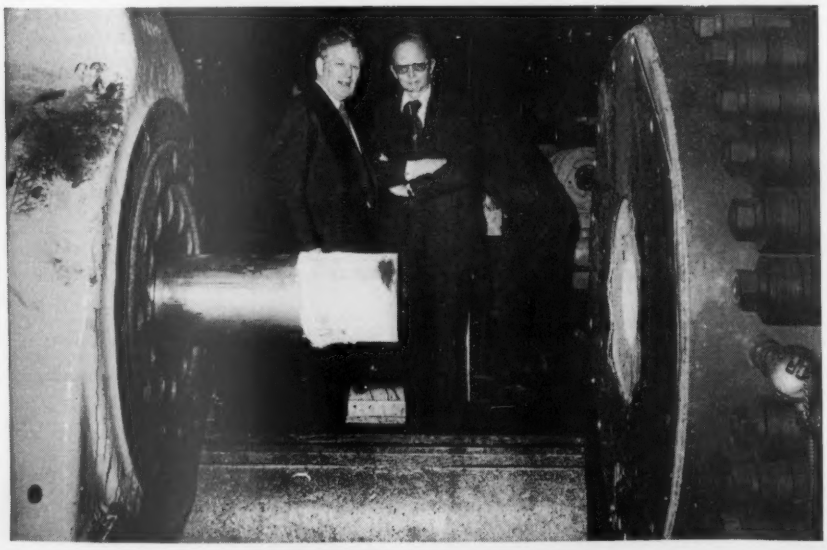
Thorn Electrical Industries has launched its own Export United campaign.

The 80 Thorn companies around the country will each be organising campaigns within their factories. These campaigns will differ according to the conditions and structure of the individual plants, and may range from the printing of newsletters to competitions, film shows, and special visits to places such as freight terminals.

Each factory will be making a special effort to show that every employee has a part to play in the overall impression that the company makes on its export customers.

Sir Richard Cave, chairman of Thorn Electrical, said that 'Export United' was needed to involve everyone in the company in understanding their part in a united export effort.

Sir Frederick Catherwood (right), BOTB chairman, looks at an aluminium sheathing press at BICC Power Cables during his North Wales visit.



Export clubs' support needed – Wilkes

Chief executive of the British Overseas Trade Board Jim Wilkes told a meeting of the Wessex Export Club at Poole on 23 November that the board needed the support of the export clubs. He said he particularly appreciated the support from the Wessex Club.

Mr Wilkes said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had visited the board recently and said that his economic worries would be over if the rest were as good as the best. 'It is just this sort of transformation that your club and the export club movement can help to achieve.'

Commenting on Britain's present trading position Mr Wilkes said that it was not generally realised that the UK exported a higher proportion of all that the country produced than France or Germany, three times as much as the United States, and, surprisingly, twice as much as Japan.

'But,' said Mr Wilkes, 'good though our record has been over the past year or so, we cannot afford to let the grass grow under our feet. So far this year, although the monthly trade figures have been going up and down like a yo-yo – and I sometimes feel as if I am riding pillion to Evel Knievel – exports are still moving upwards.'

ECGD backs S. Korean nuclear station loan

The repayment and funding for a $92 million loan made available to the Korea Electric Company, South Korea, is being backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department. Finance for the loan has been arranged by Lazard Brothers acting on behalf of Barclays Bank International, Lloyds Bank International and International Westminster Bank.

Finance for contract

The loan will help finance the contract awarded to GEC Turbine Generators for two 1000 MW turbine generators and ancillary equipment for the Korea Electric Company's nuclear units 5 and 6 being built at Ko-Ri, near Pusan, South Korea. This contract will bring work to the GEC factories in Larne, Manchester, Rugby and Stafford.

This latest loan follows one to the Korea Electric Company of £72.5 million, signed in spring 1977. Under that loan, ECGD guaranteed the finance arranged by Lazard Brothers to support a contract won by GEC for the non-nuclear portion of the Ko-Ri II power station.

Poznan fair: pavilion space still available

There is still some space available in the British pavilion, organised by the Department of Trade, at the Poznan fair which will be held from 10 to 19 June 1979. The British pavilion provides some of the most up-to-date facilities and accommodation at the fair. Application for space can be accepted up to 13 December and exhibitors can obtain details and application forms from B. G. Rice, Fairs and Promotions Branch, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7246.

The Poznan fair is the largest annual event of its kind in eastern Europe and is the focal point each year where representatives from Polish industry meet suppliers from abroad. The event therefore provides a useful means of making and maintaining contacts in the Polish buying organisations.

The product areas covered by the fair are: complete industrial plants; metallurgical products; machines and installations; capital goods; electric, electronic and telecommunications equipment; vehicles; chemical products, glass and ceramic products; furniture; wood and paper products; textile and leather products; farm products and foodstuffs; consumer durables and services.

Seminar: south-east Asia visits Glasgow

A seminar is being held by the British Overseas Trade Board's south-east Asia trade advisory group (Seatag) at the Excelsior Hotel, Glasgow Airport, Abbotsinch, on 6 December. This half-day, free event, starting at 09.30, will be chaired by Sir Robert Maclean, chairman of A. F. Stoddard, and will be followed by a buffet lunch.

Speakers will concentrate on case studies. John Brown Engineering will speak on 'Open and closed markets' of Malaysia and Indonesia compared with Burma and Vietnam; J. and P. Coats on 'Overseas investment'; Dr W. M. Mackinley on 'Direct exporting'; and Balfour Beatty on 'Marketing techniques in non-traditional markets'.

Seatag's chairman, Denis Rooney, will speak on the 'Role of Seatag' and Seatag's new audio-visual 'South-east Asia – market of the future' will also be shown.

A limited number of tickets are still available and these and further details can be obtained from Andrew Sanders, Seatag's Secretary, tel. 01-215 5747.

Exports in 1979 of copper, lead and aluminium waste and scrap to third countries

Applications are invited by the Department of Trade for allocated shares of UK quotas for exports in 1979 of copper, lead and aluminium waste and scrap to countries outside the EEC. The quota categories are as follows:

1 copper ashes and residues (tariff heading ex 26.03) in the form of copper scale.
2 copper and copper alloy scrap (tariff heading ex 74.01)
3 aluminium scrap (tariff heading ex 76.01 B).
4 lead scrap (tariff heading ex 78.01 B).

Although final confirmation is awaited from Brussels, it is most unlikely that the total tonnage of the UK quotas or the size of the combined EEC quotas will differ from those in 1978 (as announced in *Trade and Industry* on 9 June). But, for the first time, the UK quota under tariff heading ex 74.01 will not be subject to special restrictions; indeed, all forms of copper and copper alloy waste and scrap applicable to this heading may be exported under the quota arrangements in 1979.

Certain amounts, not exceeding 10 per cent of the combined EEC quota in each of the four classes of metals, are to be retained at the beginning of the period by the commission for piecemeal distribution when justified to member states throughout the period. To qualify for shares of this reserve, member states must have used at least 90 per cent of the quota tonnage already received. On the other hand, if more than 60 per cent of a member state's original quota is still unused by 15 October 1979, tonnages equivalent to the excess percentage may have to be transferred to the community reserves.

To comply with this system, UK exporters applying for a share of the initial quotas will be given an allocation for the period 1 January to 15 October 1979. Usually these will be based on container load units of 20 tonnes. Licences will be granted within each firm's allocation ceiling upon sight of draft export contracts. Exporters will be required also to supply later, but as soon as possible, a copy of the relevant bill of lading. For the period 16 October to 31 December 1979 exports may be allowed under licences extended from the first period of the year or under completely new licences granted on an ad hoc basis.

Applications for allocations for 1 January to 15 October 1979 inclusive should be received in Export Licensing Branch, Department of Trade, 16/20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DP by 15 December 1978. Any received after that date will be too late for inclusion in this allocation.

ECGD statutory return commitments under the Export Guarantees and Overseas Investment Act 1978

The Export Guarantees and Overseas Investment Act 1978 is the legislation under which the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) operates. The return below lists commitments under that act as at 30 September 1978.

Export guarantees

New guarantees given and liabilities incurred in quarter ended 30 September 1978

The aggregate amount of new guarantees given under the act involving sterling liabilities amounted to £697 million under section 1, £260 million under section 2(1) and the aggregate amount of new liabilities incurred under section 5 of the act was nil: a total of £957 million.

The aggregate amount of new guarantees involving foreign currency liabilities amounted to: SDR 11 million under section 1 and SDR 354 million under section 2(1): a total of SDR 365 million.

These represent ECGD's maximum liabilities under new guarantees given during the quarter. The continuing liability under guarantees given prior to the quarter is not reflected here, but is covered in the liabilities' totals below.

Amount recorded against ECGD's statutory limits as at 30 September 1978

Total outstanding sums recorded against the sterling limit of £25,000 million under section 6 of the act amounted to £20,845 million.

The following items are taken into account:
1 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 1 – £13,333 million.
2 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 2(1) – £5,569 million.
3 Amount of principal monies due under arrangements made under section 2(2) – nil.
4 Amount of principal monies outstanding in respect of loans made under section 3(1) – £1,992 million.
5 Sums paid in respect of securities acquired and for the time being held under section 4 – £143 million.
6 Liabilities in respect of arrangements made under section 5 – £70 million.

The aggregate of 1 to 6 above will exceed the total liability to the extent that guarantees to banks have been given under a different section from the related credit insurance guarantees.

Total outstanding sums recorded against the SDR limit of 10 000 million SDR under section 6 amounted, after revaluation, to SDR 2343 million.

The following items are taken into account:
1 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 1 – SDR 391 million.
2 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 2(1) – SDR 1952 million.
3 Amount of principal monies due under arrangements made under section 2(2) – nil.
4 Amount of principal monies outstanding in respect of loans made under section 3(1) – nil.

Investment insurance

Liabilities assumed in quarter ended 30 September 1978

During the quarter the aggregate amount of new liabilities assumed under section 11 of the act was £2.3 million.

Amount recorded against ECGD's statutory limits as at 30 September 1978

Total outstanding sums recorded against the limit of £250 million under section 11(5) of the act amounted to £76 million.

Notes

Guarantees are given under section 1 after consultation with the Export Guarantees Advisory Council. Guarantees under section 2(1) are those given in the national interest.

Section 2(2) enables ECGD to provide financial facilities, eg to make loans to match foreign competition on unusual credit terms and to enter into foreign currency loans should the need arise.

Section 3(1) is used to refinance banks which make sterling finance available on special fixed interest rates for exports sold on credit terms of two years or more.

Section 4 enables ECGD to acquire, hold and dispose of securities. This was used to provide aid loans before this function was transferred to the Ministry of Overseas Development.

Section 5 enables ECGD to give cost escalation cover.

Section 11 enables ECGD to insure new UK investment overseas against certain non-commercial risks.

Certificates of origin: issuing body

The following organisations have been designated, by the UK government, for the purpose of issuing certificates of origin under article 11 of the International Convention relating to the Simplification of Customs Formalities 1923:

Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce
Ayr Chamber of Commerce

Barnsley and District Chamber of Commerce
Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Blackburn and District Incorporated Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Bolton Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Boston and District Chamber of Commerce
Bradford Chamber of Commerce
Bristol Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Shipping
Burnley and District Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Burton upon Trent and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Bury and District Chamber of Commerce

Calderdale Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bradford and Halifax)
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce
Cardiff Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Carlisle Chamber of Commerce
Central Scotland Chamber of Commerce (Falkirk)
Chester and North Wales Chamber of Trade
Chesterfield and District Chamber of Commerce
Colchester and District Chamber of Trade and Commerce
Coventry Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Incorporated)
Croydon Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Derby and Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Doncaster Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated)
Dorset Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Incorporated) (Bournemouth)
Dudley and District Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated)
Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers
Exeter and District Chamber of Commerce and Trade

Federation of Sussex Industries and Chamber of Commerce (Brighton)

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
Gloucester and County Chamber of Commerce
Goole Chamber of Commerce and Shipping (Incorporated)
Grantham Chamber of Commerce
Great Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce
Greenock Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers
Grimsby and Immingham Chamber of Commerce and Shipping
Guernsey Chamber of Commerce (St Peter Port)

Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce (Hatfield)
Hull Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping

Ipswich Chamber of Commerce and Shipping (Incorporated)
Isle of Man Chamber of Trade, Commerce and Industry (Douglas)
Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce (Newport)

Jersey Chamber of Commerce Incorporated (St Helier)

Kendal and District Incorporated Chamber of Commerce
Kidderminster and District Chamber of Commerce (Birmingham)
Kirkcaldy and District Chamber of Commerce
Kirklees and Wakefield Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Huddersfield and Wakefield)

Lancaster, Morecambe and District Chamber of Commerce (Lancaster)
Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Leicester and County Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Leith Chamber of Commerce
Lincoln Incorporated Chamber of Commerce
London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (and branch issuing offices at Crawley and Barking)
Lowestoft Incorporated Chamber of Commerce
Luton and District Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated)

Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Medway and Gillingham Chamber of Commerce (Chatham)
Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Liverpool)

Neath, Briton Ferry and District Chamber of Commerce
Newark and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Newhaven and District Chamber of Commerce [1]
Newport and Gwent Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated)
Northampton and County Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated)
Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Belfast)
North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Stoke-on-Trent)
Norwich Incorporated Chamber of Commerce
Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry (and county office at Sutton in Ashfield)

Oldham and District Incorporated Chamber of Commerce
Oxford and District Chamber of Commerce

Paisley Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd
Perthshire Chamber of Commerce (Perth)
Plymouth Chamber of Trade and Commerce
Port Talbot Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping
Preston and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Reading Chamber of Commerce and Trade
Rochdale and District Chamber of Commerce
Rotherham Chamber of Commerce
Rugby and District Chamber of Commerce

Scunthorpe, Glanford and Gainsborough Chamber of Commerce
Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers (Incorporated)
Southampton Chamber of Commerce
South Bucks and East Berks Chamber of Commerce and Industry (and branch issuing offices at London Airport (Heathrow) and High Wycombe)
Southend Chamber of Trade, Commerce and Industry
South-East Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Portsmouth)
South of Scotland Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated) (Hawick)
Stockport Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Swansea Chamber of Commerce and Shipping (Incorporated)
Swindon Chamber of Commerce

Teesside and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Telford Chamber of Industry and Commerce Ltd
Royal Tunbridge Wells Chamber of Trade

[1] Does not certify movement certificates.

Tyne and Wear Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Newcastle upon Tyne)

Walsall Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Warrington Chamber of Commerce
City of Westminster Chamber of Commerce
Widnes Chamber of Commerce
Wigan and District Incorporated Chamber of Commerce
Wirral Chamber of Commerce
Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Worcester Chamber of Commerce

Information for exporters

Exporters are informed that foreign customs authorities may refuse certificates of origin other than those issued by organisations designated by the Department of Trade and listed above. Exporters are advised that difficulties may also arise over documents which do no more than authenticate the signature of the declarer (even if the signature of the declarer is later officially authenticated).

Refusal by foreign customs authorities to accept certificates of origin or difficulties arising, for the reasons given above, are almost bound to lead to delay in delivery of the goods concerned and may, in certain circumstances, lead to forfeiture of the goods, or in the imposition of financial penalties, or both.

Chambers of commerce seeking designation to issue certificates of origin universally acceptable to foreign customs authorities under the provisions of international conventions should apply in the first instance to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 6-14 Dean Farrar Street, London SW1H 0DX, as the ABCC acts as an advisory body to the Department of Trade on these matters.

The list previously published in *Trade and Industry* of 5 May 1978 is hereby cancelled.

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Overseas trade exhibitions

BIE Mexico: was it all worthwhile?

What did Britain's biggest overseas trading venture of 1978, the British industrial exhibition (Bie) in Mexico City, achieve? What return can be expected on the considerable investment in man hours and resources put in by the exhibitors, to say nothing of Board officials, members of Canning House – the trade advisory group for Latin America – British embassy staff, the British Chamber of Commerce in Mexico, Industrial and Trade Fairs International and the Central Office of Information? What impact did the 470 tons of exhibits, worth £1.5 million, make on visitors? John Cole-Morgan reports.

By a last-minute scurrying from stand to stand, talking to the 210 British companies and organisations which took part in this all-British, 10-day event, I emerged with an estimate of £4 million worth of business completed, but also with a distinct feeling that immediate sales were almost irrelevant to the main purpose of the exercise.

As an indicator of achievement, the figure bore no relationship to the atmosphere of confidence in future prospects which pervaded all but two of the stands I visited. There was a feeling that we had got it right, especially on timing.

How do you put a value on the fact that the President of Mexico, Jose Lopez Portillo, came to the out-of-city-centre-site formally to open the exhibition with the Duke of Kent and brought with him a bevy of ministers? What value do you put on the words of welcome by the Minister of Natural Resources and Industrial Development, Jose Andres de Oteyza, who spoke of mutual respect and of the relevance of the exhibition to Mexico's need to develop its capital goods and equipment overseas?

Media publicity

Is there any point in totting up the column inches of press cuttings from the Mexican press or the television air time devoted to the Spanish-speaking vice-president of the show, Lord Montgomery? No point at all, if all the coverage had not been backed by warm smiles, firm handshakes and sometimes back-slapping embraces, confirming this industrial shop window was genuinely felt to be of assistance to Mexico.

Mexico is determined to develop as fast as it can on the back of energy reserves which put it into the same league as Saudi Arabia, but does not intend selling its birthright to spectulative investors. It wants to diversify its trade into Europe, and especially the UK, to reduce its economic dependence on its northern neighbour, the United States.

Mexican industrialists from both the public and private sectors turned up in force. There were top-level delegations from, to pick out just two, the Mexican state oil company, Pemex and the Mexican navy.

The industrialists came from far afield and often when they were least expected – a typically Mexican trait. At 21.30 one evening one exhibitor received a visitor whose interest made the whole of his visit to Mexico worthwhile. This visitor had driven from Monterrey, arrived unannounced, and kept the exhausted but excited exhibitor talking and the house lights on long past 22.00 – closing time. He then left to make the 500-mile return journey back to Monterrey through the night.

Response to exhibition

Pleased, delighted, enthusiastic, were the common replies from exhibitors when asked what they thought of their prospects at the close of the exhibition. Firms had been slow in booking space early in the year. But suddenly during the summer, as Mexico's energy reserve estimates were revised upwards on an almost daily basis, the opportunities became clearer. At the same time, the progressive control of President Lopez Portillo was seen to be bringing a stability to Mexico which the City of London recognised during the exhibition with substantial lines of credit specially designed to make possible the purchase of capital equipment for industrial expansion.

Students came and asked searching questions. For example, electronics had been neglected in Mexico until three years ago, possibly because the United States was able to provide all the country's needs. Now, under the new administration, electronics is being given much more attention. On the stands of three electronic equipment manufacturers, independently, and without prompting or leading, comments were made about intelligent questions being asked by students. One exhibitor said that some students became quite excited when they saw his equipment which they had previously only seen in pictures and had cross-questioned him closely on how it worked.

With such an expensive exercise as the exhibition, it seemed sensible to spread the net more widely than Mexico itself and parties of decision-makers were flown in almost daily from the surrounding countries.

At the weekend, when the exhibition was open to the public, many of the people who had visited it in a business capacity during the week brought their families. It was then that Holoco's display of holograms – three-dimensional images in space – which fascinated everyone from the president to small children, came into its own.

There is no doubt that Mexicans were pleased that Britain had chosen their country for its biggest trade promotion event of the year; no doubt they were impressed by what they saw and by the steps taken to ensure that the products shown were relevant to their needs. They were also impressed by the practical approach of British companies to the restrictive investment regulations which mean that, except in exceptional circumstances, foreign investors are limited in any concern to a minority holding of not more than 49 per cent. As Lord Chalfont, the show president and president of Canning House said, 'the investment laws do cause some problems for British companies but we understand the need for them and feel there is room for investment within them.'

If the exhibition has helped to pave the way to a continuing improvement in trade between Britain and Mexico or to more joint venture companies like Alfred Herbert's 'Hermex' (there are already 60 British joint ventures in Mexico) or to more manufacture under licence it will have been worthwhile.

If it has created a mutual confidence that could help secure contracts, such as the £15 million worth of Rolls-Royce RB211s which could be used to power the Pemex gas pipeline which the Mexicans are going to build to the American border in anticipation of an agreement on price; or the use of the RB211s in the wide-bodied jets which are being considered by Mexicana, one of Mexico's two large airlines; or help GEC Transportation Projects obtain the contract for the 82 km Mexico suburban railway or the modernisation and electrification of the main line from Queratoro to Vera Cruz, both of which could be put out to contract in the next few years, it will have been a worthwhile national investment as well as a major trading venture. Only time will tell.

The Duke of Kent (right) with Brian Bliss Hill, marketing manager of Bentley Engineering of Leicester. The firm sold knitting machinery worth £250,000 at the fair.

Market opens window on Britain

From Ben Thorne. British embassy, Tokyo

One of the steps taken by the Japanese government to counteract the mounting criticism of its massive trade surplus and the upward pressures on the value of the yen, has been the creation of the World Import Mart. This is part of a huge suburban development project at Ikebukuro in north-west Tokyo on the site of an old prison. Flanked by a 60-storey office tower block, and a cultural centre, and with a 1200 room hotel still being built, the World Import Mart occupies an 11-storey 88 570 m² block that was originally intended to be a department store.

Today, it houses a vast array of retail shops offering imported goods, restaurants and travel agents. On the sixth and seventh floors the governments of the world are being offered, rent-free, 500 m² of space to present their countries' products and on 15 November Britain was the first developed country to take advantage of this offer. The floors are managed by the manufactured imports organisation (Mipro) of Japan's ministry of international trade and the Japanese exteral trade organisation – Jetro.

Encouraged and supported by the British embassy, the British chamber of commerce has taken over the organisation and running of a part-promotional, part-selling display called in English 'British Market' but more evocatively in Japanese 'Window on Britain'. Eleven participants are showing the products of 33 British companies in attractive surroundings.

Whisky, foodstuffs, confectionery, carpets, clothing, sports goods, toys and games, gift items, kitchenware, books and, somewhat surprisingly, duplicating machines are all on show. Some can be bought, some sampled, and others just admired but the overall impression is lively, attractive and can only be beneficial to the British image as the display is visited by many of the 100 000 or so daily visitors to the World Import Mart.

Despite the mainly consumer-oriented style of the display area, other kinds of British business activity in Japan have not been entirely neglected. Through panels and TV screens, famous companies in the medical and aerospace fields and British banks and insurance companies make their presence known. The British Tourist Authority and British Airways also extend their hospitable and enticing invitations to visit Britain.

Formal opening

Before the formal opening by British ambassador Sir Michael Wilford and Lady Wilford there was a press conference attended by 90 journalists at which the chairman of the British chamber of commerce, Martin Barrow, welcomed the co-operation and help of the Japanese authorities. He believed that the Mipro concept was sure to contribute to increased interest in sales of British goods. The embassy's commercial counsellor, Ben Thorne, while also praising the generosity of Mipro in providing the space and praising the British chamber for its energy and imagination, said that he did not think that anyone believed that the World Import Mart would itself resolve the problems of Japan's trade surplus. It was really a symbol of the Japanese government's determination to open up the Japanese market, to remove the remaining real and psychological trade barriers and to create a climate in which Britain and other countries would do business on a fair and competitive basis. In this sense, Mr Thorne said, the World Import Mart and the work of Mipro were welcome to all. 'I look forward to seeing the premises full of visitors and customers at all times and I wish the project every success.'

At the reception afterwards the ambassador drew attention to the marked increase enjoyed by British exports recently. A 31 per cent rise in 1977 in sterling terms was followed by a 16 per cent rise in the first nine months of 1978 which could, if there was the UK's traditionally good last quarter, become 20 per cent (which would give Britain figures for 1978 of around £550 million) by the end of the year. He drew attention to the fact that the 'British Market' was the result of the efforts and co-operation of British and Japanese businessmen and he hoped that opportunities to expand Britain's trade with Japan would continue to grow.

The 'British Market' has been planned to run for an initial period of six months but its life can be extended if it is judged successful and the participants wish to continue. Although the space is now fully taken, there may be opportunities for other British firms or their agents to show their products.

This is a valuable addition to the already formidable British sales effort in Japan. Support by the British Overseas Trade Board will have been given this year to 20 outward missions covering 260 firms, 10 major exhibitions at the British Export Marketing Centre attended by 129 British companies and attracting an audience so far of over 9000 Japanese businessmen, and 12 sponsored joint-ventures at Japanese trade fairs. The commercial department of the embassy expects, in addition, to have seen and helped well over 1000 individual British businessmen and to have issued over 500 export opportunity notices through the Export Intelligence Service.

In all, an active and busy scene which should offer yet more attractions in 1979.

(Left) British ambassador, Sir Michael Wilford tries his skill at Mastermind. Below, a general view of the British Market.

Chicago: the place for packaging

From Douglas Newcomb, British consulate-general, Illinois

Chicago's McCormick Place was the venue for the international packaging exposition from 30 October to 3 November and it was the place to go to see the latest in packaging machinery and materials.

Over 500 companies exhibited at the show, including 15 British firms who took part in a joint venture sponsored by the Institute of Packaging and the British Overseas Trade Board. The majority of the members in the joint venture were extremely pleased with the show.

Company representatives from Lonsdale

Polypaks, General Engineering Company (Radcliffe) and Newman Labelling Machines commented that they were surprised at the number of international visitors.

There were, in fact, visitors from France, Canada, Germany, Japan, and South America, and the attendance for the show was 31 198 – a 17 per cent increase over the 1976 event.

Pack-Expo is, like most industrial trade exhibitions, where the actual buying does not take place until weeks later after the show. However, Loma Engineering, Norpak Machines and Plastic Extruders proved that this is not always the case. These companies together took orders amounting to £69,000. When the exhibition closed, members of the joint venture reported they received a total of 1500 inquiries.

The next Pack-Expo will be held from 27 to 31 October 1979 at Chicago's McCormick Place.

First Chinese multinational fair a success for both sides

From E. T. Davies, British embassy, Peking

When Vice-Premier Yu Chiu-Li, who is also minister in charge of the State Planning Commission, cut the tape on 20 October to open the Peking foreign agricultural machinery exhibition, he created history by opening the first international exhibition to be held in China since liberation in 1949.

Twelve nations were represented: the UK, Sweden, Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, France, Japan, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy and Romania. The biggest stands were those of Japan, Germany and Italy.

A notable absentee was the United States but its machinery was, in fact, well represented through subsidiaries. The Romanian presence was an indication not only of Romania's achievements in agriculture but also of the closeness of political relations between the two countries.

Twenty British companies took part, their products ranging from complete equipment such as tractors and sugar-beet harvesters to components for agricultural machinery and pesticides. In addition to companies, there was representation by the Agricultural Engineers' Association and the British Agricultural Export Council and the British Overseas Trade Board.

The Chinese are experienced in putting on all manner of national exhibitions, but it was clear from the early discussions that took place between the Chinese authorities and the embassy in Peking that they would have to adjust their thinking and practices considerably to cope with a prestigious multinational exhibition which they were putting on at very short notice. It is a tribute both to the Chinese and to the various national organisers that by 20 October, virtually all the problems had been solved and the show was successfully launched.

The Chinese said that they would produce an attendance of about 350 000 concerned with agricultural mechanisation. Although no independent check was possible, it seems likely that this figure was met by the end of the exhibition and it is clear from the scope and depth of the questioning of the exhibitors by the visitors that the vast majority were indeed deeply involved with agricultural machinery in one way or another. So it is fair to claim the exhibitors got through to that most elusive of persons in China, the end user.

As an indication of the seriousness with which the Chinese government views the modernisation programme for agriculture, not only was the exhibition opened by the vice-premier who holds a key position in China's economic decision-making process, and visited one evening by Vice-Premier Chen Yung-Kuei, who is most concerned with agriculture, but on Sunday, 29 October, Chairman Hua Kuo-Feng and most of the leadership who were in Peking visited every country's stand.

The British stand was particularly favoured by a separate and unique visit by Vice-Premier Wang Chen, who earlier in his career had had much to do with the promotion of agriculture in poor areas and who now as industrial overlord has visited the UK.

By the time the exhibition closed officially there was no news of any contracts for the sale of finished products although most – if not all – of the machinery on show was sold at bearable prices. It seems likely that the Chinese authorities will now make a detailed assessment of the equipment they have seen, for perhaps a few months, and then make decisions about what they will need to import from abroad in the way of equipment and technology. There is little doubt, however, that the ultimate aim will be self-sufficiency in the production of agricultural machinery and that some of the most promising possibilities of business will be in the field of co-operation in establishing new production facilities in China.

Was the exhibition a success for the British exhibitors? Only time will tell. But there is no doubt that it provided the means for British agricultural machinery to be seen by large numbers of experts from all over the country and by the central leadership which takes the important decisions.

Was it a success for the Chinese? It seems to have been – demand was such that, at the last minute, exhibitors were asked to leave their exhibits on site for another two weeks of viewing.

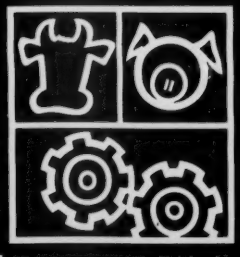
Excellent contacts at 'Kemi'

From T. H. Abraham, British consulate-general, Gothenburg

Including the host country, 21 countries were represented by 530 companies at the international trade fair for chemicals, processing, and

agromek

International exhibition of agricultural mechanization equipment, cattle and pigs.



Advanced technical machinery and equipment and elite breeding animals - cattle and pigs - will welcome you in the 12 halls covering 45,000 sq.m. at the Exhibition Centre of Herning.

Agromek '79 presents the entire agricultural machinery and mechanization trade in one common exhibition which enables both Danish and foreign buyers to get an overall survey of the market.

Exhibition of elite breeding animals including approx. 100 head of cattle and approx. 30 pigs from the best Danish herds.

Agromek '79 is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information about Agromek '79 can be obtained from the Secretariat: Agromek '79, 35 D Holmetoften, DK-8270 Højbjerg, Denmark.

Organizers:
Danish Manufacturers of Internal Agricultural Mechanization Equipment,
The Association of Danish Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery and
The Danish Farmers Association.

23-27 January 1979 in Herning - Denmark

laboratoryware which opened in Gothenburg on 7 November.

The attractive British stand was in a prominent position near one of the two entrances. Seven British firms formed a joint venture sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the British Laboratory Ware Association. The exhibition, not open to the public, attracted over 7500 'professionals', mainly from Swedish industry and trade, but also from neighbouring countries.

A wide range of exhibits gave visitors an opportunity of seeing progress achieved in chemical industry and technology. New machines, instruments and methods were demonstrated for the first time. Alert British suppliers reported fresh outlets unknown to them.

Throughout the exhibition, a series of conferences and congresses was held, mainly of interest to those concerned with polymers, chemical corrosion, the transport of poisonous chemicals, the control of chemical pollution, and many other problems.

This short, but busy exhibition closed on 10 November, and the feeling among the British group was that it had been most worthwhile, a sales promotion to be repeated. Some of the exhibitors felt that perhaps there had not been the crowds experienced at some of the continental exhibitions, a common observation in Scandinavia, but quality in this case outweighed quantity.

The British participants in the joint venture reported success with the hope of good business to follow, but it was impossible to single out any outstanding success. Over 40 000 are employed in the Swedish chemical industry today, an industry which has expanded very rapidly. The exhibition had grown by 50 per cent since the last one, and the next Kemi planned for 1980 will be even bigger.

British menswear campaign launched in Belgium

From Guy Roberts, BOTB

Recognition of the attractiveness of British high-quality menswear in the Belgian market and the potential for greater sales is being demonstrated this autumn by an unusual combined promotional effort in Brussels, Antwerp, Charleroi, Bruges and other cities.

Ten top Belgian retailers of high-quality menswear have combined under the title Ciseaux d'Or to mount a joint campaign with 20 members of the British Menswear Guild (BMG), backed by substantial additional buying of British merchandise.

The promotion was launched with a sparkling fashion show and a reception at the Brussels Hilton on 12 October, with the British ambassador as the guest of honour. An extensive advertising campaign to promote the two organisations and their aims will continue through the autumn and altogether 41 Belgian menswear retailers are taking part.

The promotion is supported by the British Overseas Trade Board and is intended by the organisers to be the first stage of a three-year campaign.

Opening the event, British Menswear Guild chairman, Harry Cliffe, described it as by far the most ambitious promotional effort yet undertaken by the BMG and saw it as the prototype for future joint promotions in Europe.

UK repro furniture liked in Belgium

From M. Hewitt, British embassy, Brussels

One of Britain's export successes in recent years has been the remarkable increase in sales of furniture to Belgium. In 1975, the value of British exports to Belgium was £3.4 million and in 1977, £8 million, an increase of 135 per cent, representing a large growth in volume.

This excellent progress was further consolidated at the forty-first international furniture show held at the Palais du Centenaire, Brussels, from 9 to 13 November. Over 500 Belgian and foreign companies exhibited this year making the show one of the most important in the furniture trade calendar. Buyers from countries adjoining Belgium came in strength, especially from West Germany and the Netherlands.

For the fifth consecutive year, there was a British joint venture, the largest ever at this event, with 33 companies exhibiting.

The group, sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and British Furniture Manufacturers Exports exhibited a wide variety of reproduction cabinet and occasional furniture, as well as traditional upholstery in textiles and hide.

Although the British group found the show somewhat quieter than in the past, it recorded a satisfactory number of orders. Some £550,000 worth of business was done during the show, with an estimated £1.25 million to come from follow-up orders. Of the 19 companies looking for a Belgian agent, at least 11 had appointed one or were negotiating.

Good results

These good results are normal for British exhibitors at the Brussels furniture show and are due, in part, to the determined and efficient marketing of British manufacturers, supported by the very active BFM Exports and, in part, to the high quality of the products.

British furniture, especially reproduction, has an excellent reputation in Belgium, which the repeated appearances of British groups in Brussels have greatly enhanced.

Although consumer demand is rather weak in Belgium at present, there are signs that the economy is picking up, and prospects for furniture look reasonably good. There is no doubt that British manufacturers are well placed to benefit from any quickening of the market.

UK largest exhibitor at Gastech

From M. Alan-Smith, British consulate-general, Marseille

Under a clever logo, a successful British joint-venture exhibition was mounted at the Loews Hotel and Conference Centre, Monte Carlo, between 7 and 10 November.

The event was the sixth international conference and exhibition on liquefied natural and petroleum gas (Gastech) organised successively at various world venues – last year at Hamburg, next year at Houston in November, and this year in Monaco.

Of about 130 exhibitors, 16 British firms exhibited in a joint venture under the sponsorship of the British Overseas Trade Board and led by the Council of British Manufacturers of Petroleum Equipment. Six other British firms took part outside the joint venture. With 22 firms present, the UK just edged out the French and the Germans with 21 firms each.

During the conference period, about 1100 professionals from all over the world, ranging from naval architects to insulation experts to gas-detector manufacturers and shipbuilders, met for a concentrated technical programme under the guidance of 50 conference chairmen, panel members and speakers.

Among the British exhibits was a number of new products and information on the latest technological innovations. The exhibitors were satisfied with their participation, and although business opportunities in this area of activity take a long time to mature, it is the maintaining of contact with clients, technical experts and competitors which is important to the main participants in Gastech.

First air show in black Africa

From D. F. G. Farr, British embassy, Abidjan

The Ivorian Civil Aviation authorities held an air show entitled 'Les Journées de l'Aviation' from 26 to 29 October at Port Bouet international airport, Abidjan.

This, the first air show held in black Africa, consisted of static displays of aircraft, pavilions incorporating pictorial displays and models relevant to the aircraft industry, parachuting and flying displays and demonstrations of aerobatic flying.

Juding by the enthusiastic response of the public, who visited the exhibition in large numbers despite the inclement weather, the Ivorian authorities responsible have hit upon a winning theme and it seems probable that there will be further 'Journées de l'Aviation'.

Several countries were represented by pavilions and aircraft including the United States, Holland, France, Switzerland and Brazil. But probably the most significant foreign presence was that of Britain. Supported by the British Overseas Trade Board, eight firms took space in a large, all-British pavilion. Two other firms took smaller individual pavilions and a third shared one with another non-British company.

A great attraction was the HS 125-700 executive jet, which took part in the flying displays. But the British exhibits which attracted the most interest were models of two of the proposed designs for the new international terminal building at Abidjan airport, which will eventually be designed by Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners.

UK electronics alive and kicking

From A. K. Rothnie, British consulate-general, Munich

Little introduction is required for the international trade fair for components and assemblies in electronics which takes place every two years in Munich, for 'Electronica' has long established itself as the leading international forum for tomorrow's technology.

This year's event was no exception. Production and testing equipment has largely been hived off into a new event – Productronica – so the show is now specifically orientated towards active and passive electronic components and sub-assemblies. At £5 per individual ticket, or £12 for a permanent pass, it is hardly surprising that over 80 per cent of the 85 000 visitors were directly involved one way or another with the electronics industry and underlines the very specialised nature of the event.

For those who continue to indulge in the uniquely British sport of self-disparagement, Electronica would have been a bitter disappointment. Over 100 exhibitors from the UK gave the lie to the oft-expressed view that Britain has no viable electronics industry and that anything in that line has to come from the United States, or possibly Japan.

Sixty British firms exhibited directly, 50 of them exhibiting on two joint-venture stands sponsored by the Electronics Components Industry Federation and the British Overseas Trade Board. Representing some 20 per cent of total overseas participation at Electronica, it is clear that the UK electronics industry is alive and kicking.

At least it was kicking at the beginning of the exhibition. At the end of seven days, including Saturday and Sunday, pretty well all the British exhibitors were completely exhausted, being inundated by inquiries. It would have been a salutary experience for those who believe that export executives live a gentle life of luxury abroad to visit an event like Electronica to see what selling abroad really does involve.

As already well reported, the European electronics market has had a mixed year and overall there has been little real growth. The German market was no exception to this state of affairs, but after stagnation in the first six months of 1978, there has been a considerable upswing in business which will probably give an overall market growth of about 2 to 3 per cent.

Individual components areas, however, vary quite dramatically. Passive components showed a production fall of 4.9 per cent but microprocessors, with a growth curve of 70 per cent, and integrated circuits and optoelectronic components with 15 per cent, were the other side of the coin.

Surprisingly, it seems that this upswing is not generally consumer-product led as in the past, but more orientated to the professional equipment and investment goods sector, in particular electronic data processing measuring and testing equipment and telecommunications. Already delivery dates for certain components and devices are lengthening and unless a very untoward event, such as a new energy crisis, interrupts, 1979 should be a good year for all concerned.

Bigger Blech beats all records

From M. Crook, British consulate-general, Düsseldorf

By the close of the British-organised international sheet metal working and forming exhibition (Blech '78) in Essen on 11 November, all records had been broken for the event previously held four times before in Switzerland and England. With 183 exhibitors from 14 countries filling five halls, it was twice as big as the last show in Zurich in 1976.

Fifteen British companies were represented, 11 on the joint-venture stand under the sponsorship of the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the British Overseas Trade Board. The volume of inquiries generated by the show exceeded the expectations of most, if not all, the exhibitors.

The attendance of 13 240 trade buyers, technologists and executives from 40 countries was about five times the number of visitors in Zurich and covered twice as many countries.

It is evident that Blech established itself as a vital contact point between the industry and its customers, for many exhibitors have reserved, and some increased, their space for the next, larger exhibition which takes place in Essen in October 1980.

Two additional events will be held at the same time. They are Icap '80, the international exhibition for computer-aided production, and Imex '80, the international maintenance engineering exhibition.

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Overseas trade country data

Australia

Publishing industry. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 8 August 1976, reported a reference to the Industries Commission on the question whether assistance should be accorded to the publishing industry in Australia.

The commission has now released a draft report of its inquiry which is being made available to interested parties to enable them to examine and comment on it before final recommendations are made to the government. A further public hearing will be held by the commission to consider submissions, if any, on Wednesday 20 December 1978 at the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, King's Avenue, Canberra ACT, beginning at 10.00 am.

A copy of submissions should be sent in advance to the commission at PO Box 80, Canberra ACT 2600.

A copy of the draft report is available on loan from Department of Trade, Room 336, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Ref: CRE 1554/75.

Footwear and bras. The Australian Minister for Industry and Commerce and the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs recently announced details of additional import quota allocations for footwear and foundation garments in respect of the period 1 January 1979 to 30 June 1979.

This announcement followed acceptance of recommendations in the Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Review Committee reports on footwear, and foundation garments.

The ministers said there was evidence that conditions in the footwear and brassieres industries, in general, were stable and that indications were that these conditions would be maintained during the first half of 1979.

Details of the quota allocations are:

	Unit	Total allocation	Per cent of national base quota level
Footwear			
Footwear with leather uppers	(million pairs)	2.1	50
Footwear with non-leather uppers	(million pairs	8.23	50
Thong sandals having a value factor less than $0.35 per pair	(million pairs	1.65	50
Thong sandals having a VFD from $0.35 per pair to less than $2.00 per pair	(million pairs)	1.868	50
Parts for footwear	($ million)	0.98	50
Parts for thongs	($ million)	0.0267	50
Foundation garments			
Brassieres	(million units)	1.33	50

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Ref: CRE 672/77.

Austria

Hydrazine. An agreement has been made between both the Ministries of Transport for Austria and the UK on the carriage of hydrazine in plastic drums.

Copies of the agreement in English are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Denmark

Labelling of textiles. The Danish Ministry of Commerce has issued promulgation order 321, 16 June, concerning labelling of textile goods.

Basically the order deals with marks of origin, and prohibits the use of statements, signs, presentation, labelling or sale methods which are designed to mislead the consumer about the country of origin. This order will apply from 1 July 1979.

Copies of the text of the Danish order can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 408/7174.

Fiji

Envelopes. The Fiji government has issued an amendment to the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Order 1975 so that import of envelopes falling under customs tariff item 48.14.00.09 is prohibited except in accordance with the terms of a licence granted by the secretary for commerce and industry.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Finland

Cash payments. The Bank of Finland has removed certain items from the list of goods which are subject to payment in full by the importer, or an amount equivalent to their price deposited with the Bank of Finland, before customs clearance and within 15 days of arrival.

The revised list came into effect on 1 November 1978. The goods which are now exempt include raw materials used in the food processing and clothing industries, most of the products of the wood, paper and chemical industries, certain metal, stone and glass wares, and a great deal of machinery and equipment.

Imports of these goods may now be financed by means of customary import credits.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 460.

Indonesia

Import duty exemptions. The Indonesian government has announced partial exemption of import duty and sales tax on the import of fish meal and soya bean meal to be used as raw material for cattle fodder. For fish meal and soya bean meal falling under tariff headings 23.01.00 and 23.02.50 the import duty will be 15 per cent and the sales tax 5 per cent.

The government has also announced partial exemption of import duty only on the import of overlay paper to be used as raw material to produce Formica. For overlay paper falling under headings 48.01.69, 48.01.85 and 48.07.90 the import duty will be 15 per cent, and the sales tax remains at 10 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Jordan

Commercial department moves. The commercial department of the British embassy in Jordan has recently moved into new premises. The new address is:

Commercial Section
British Embassy
Ras al Ain Street
Jabal
Amman

The new telephone numbers are Amman 41064, 43937 and 43441.

The address and telephone numbers of other departments of the embassy remain unchanged.

St Vincent

Tariff amendments. The St Vincent authorities have announced special duty rates for tariff nos 22.05, 22.06, 22.07.

The special duties on whisky, gin and vodka have also been increased.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Saudi Arabia

Foodstuffs labelling. *Trade and Industry*, 15 September, reported that additional foodstuffs were required to be labelled in Arabic from the 9 September. Confirmation has now been received and copies of the official decision can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7062/420.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

JAPAN

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Organisers: Birmingham Engineering and Building Centre Limited, UK Exhibitions Division, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2DB. Tel: 021-643 1914 Telex: 336701

Industrial and Trade Fairs Holdings Limited, Radcliffe House, Blenheim Court, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2BG. Tel: 021-705 6707 Telex: 337073

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TRADE & INDUSTRY COMPLIMENTARY TICKET

REGISTER ON ARRIVAL

Senegal

Alcoholic beverages. Circular 115, 20 July, sets out new legal requirements for the marking and labelling of alcoholic beverages and additional regulations about their importation into Senegal.

Copies of the circular can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472.

Sierra Leone

Exchange control. A press release from the Office of the President issued on 6 November states that, with immediate effect, all applications for import licences, when received by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, will be referred to the Bank of Sierra Leone for clearance taking into account the foreign exchange position of the country.

After clearance by the bank, recommended applications will be forwarded to the cabinet for approval or otherwise.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064.

Singapore

Tariff amendments. The Singapore Minister for Finance has issued the Customs Duties (Amendment No. 4) Order 1978, which came into effect on 27 October, whereby the schedule to the Customs Duties Order 1977 has been amended by cancelling the tariff headings and rates of duty for CCCN 42.02 and 71.16, and replacing them with the following:

CCCN code/Description	Unit of quantity	Customs duty: Full and preferential	Customs duty: Excise
42.02			
Travel goods (for example, trunks, suit-cases, hatboxes, travelling-bags, rucksacks), shopping-bags, handbags, satchels, brief-cases, wallets, purses, toilet-cases, tool-cases, tobacco pouches, sheaths, cases, boxes (for example), musical instruments, binoculars, jewellery, bottles, collars, footwear, brushes) and similar containers of leather or of composition leather of vulcanised fibre, of artificial plastic sheeting, of paperboard or of textile fabrics:			
Handbags, pochettes, purses, wallets, brief-cases, portfolios, scholars' satchels:			
Handbags, pochettes, purses, wallets:			
211 Of or covered with leather or composition leather	No.	5%	Nil
212 Of or covered with textiles	No.	Nil	Nil
213 Of or covered with vulcanised fibre, artificial plastic sheeting or paperboard	No.	Nil	Nil
Other			
291 Of or covered with leather or composition leather	No.	Nil	Nil
292 Of or covered with textiles	No.	Nil	Nil
293 Of or covered with vulcanised fibre, artificial plastic sheeting or paperboard	No.	Nil	Nil
71.16			
Imitation jewellery:			
100 Ear-rings, necklaces, neck-chains, pendants, broches, bangles, bracelets, and rings	Value	5%	Nil
900 Other	Value	Nil	Nil
CCCN 94.03 has also been amended by inserting after sub-heading 909-2 the following:			
94.03			
3 Merchandise display stands acceptable to the director-general	Value	Nil	Nil

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

South Africa

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African Government Gazette of 27 October 1978.

R.2131, CCCN 73.14: Specific provisions are made for certain wire, of iron or steel, not plated, coated or clad, with a cross-sectional dimension or 2 mm or more but not exceeding 4 mm and the rate of duty thereon is increased from free to 5 per cent.
R.2132, CCCN 84,21: Specific provision, free of duty, is made for manually operated sprinklers and sprayers, not fitted with reservoirs, suitable for use with insecticides, fungicides and herbicides.

Industrial rebates
R.2133, item 316.18, CCCN 39.01 and 59.03: 1 The provision for a rebate of the full duty of polyamide film for the manufacture of electric insulating products, is withdrawn. 2 Provision is made with retrospective effect to 28 October 1977, for a rebate of the full duty on bonded fibre fabrics of polyamide fibres, for the manufacture of electric insulating products.

Customs and excise, rate of duty
R.2152, items: 126.10, 126.15, 126.20 and 126.25. CCCN 87.02: The effect of this amendment is that the rate of ad valorem excise duty and ad valorem customs duty on passenger vehicles with a seating capacity of not less than 10 seats and not exceeding 20 seats with a value for duty purposes exceeding R4750 but not exceeding R5250 and on motor cars and station wagons and similar dual purpose motor vehicles with a value for duty purposes exceeding R4250 but not exceeding R4550, is reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* 3 November.

R.2170, CCCN 29.31: The rate of duty on xanthates is amended from 20 per cent or 70c per kg less 80 per cent to 20 per cent or 80c per kg less 80 per cent.
R.2173, CCCN 84.06: The rate of duty on stationary engines, four-stroke, normally aspirated, with a cubic displacement of 300 cm^3 or more but less than 552 cm^3 is increased from free to 25 per cent, whilst the rate of duty on those with a cubic displacement of 552 cm^3 or more but less than 1500 cm^3 is increased from 15 per cent to 25 per cent.

Industrial rebates
R.2171, Item 306.01. Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on fusel oil for the manufacture of xanthates.
R.2175, Item: 312.01, 313.02, 315.01, 316.04, 316.07, 319.00 and 319.01, 320.01 320.02. The following tariff headings are deleted 73.12, 29.01, 28.08, 28.17, 59.12, 73.32 (deletion of items 319.00 and 319.01), 74.07 and 58.07. The provisions are withdrawn for a rebate of the full duty on:
a tackling ribbon of iron or steel, for the manufacture of footwear,
b benzene and toluene, for the manufacture of asbestos jointing,
c sulphuric acid, for the manufacture of the electrolytic manganese,
d sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), for the reclamation of tin,
e textile fabrics, impregnated or coated with oil, for the manufacture of electrical generators, motors, converters, transformers and like apparatus.
f machine screws, for the manufacture of dimmer switches and push-pull switches,
g propellent powders, for the manufacture of cartridges,
h tubing of copper, for the manufacture of furniture and fixtures, and
i textile gimps, cords and similar edgings, for the manufacture of mattresses and similar padded, stuffed or fitted furnishings.
General rebates
R.2172, Item 460.06, CCCN 29.31: deleted. The provision for a rebate of duty on xanthates is withdrawn.
Drawbacks, and refunds of customs duty
R.2174, Item 515.01, CCCN 74.18: Brass grips are classifiable under tariff heading 74.18 and not under tariff heading 84.61, hence this amendment.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 471/472, 473/462.

Sweden

Price freeze for petrol. A price freeze has been introduced in Sweden for petrol and fuel oil and 99 octane petrol from 10 November. This may be exceeded, however, by 3 ore per litre for petrol and 20 kroner per m^3 for fuel oil.

The highest price for 99 octane petrol will now be 2.09 kroner per litre.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458.

Car batteries. The Swedish authorities have introduced a price freeze for motor-car batteries from 16 November 1978.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458.

Ban on advertising alcohol. A ban on advertising of alcoholic beverages (with the exception of 'weak beer' sold through supermarkets) will come into effect on 1 July 1979 in Sweden.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458.

Agricultural import levies. The State Agricultural Board has announced that from 15 November 1978 agricultural import levies for certain items under the following headings have been amended:

10.01.100, 10.01.900, 10.02.000, 11.01.100, 11.01.200, 11.01.300, 11.02.100, 11.02.202, 11.02.401, 11.02.402, 23.07.006

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

Thailand

Investment promotion zones. The Thai Board of Investment has issued notice 36/2521 which lists new investment promotion zones and the benefits and privileges that are given to those companies establishing industries there.

United Kingdom exporters can obtain a handout, giving further details, from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

United States

Marine radar systems. The *Federal Register*, 6 November, published a notice, by the United States Treasury Department, announcing the initiation of an anti-dumping investigation into marine radar systems from the United Kingdom.

One UK supplier has been identified in the petition, but any other UK exporters of this merchandise who have not so far been implicated may request inclusion in the investigation if they so desire.

This is sugested because an individual cannot qualify for exclusion from any findings (including withdrawal of appraisment) unless all sales from that exporter are examined as under section 153.38 of the US Customs regulations and found to be made at not less than fair value.

Also, if a finding of dumping occurs, shipments of those systems from potential exporters to the United States would be subject to the finding. The fact that they are not presently exporting would not exclude them from a finding.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers	Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1975 prices		at 1975 prices			at 1975 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1977	1975	£ million	£ million			34,469	20,261	£ million 4,540	3,181	£ million		
1971	94.5	59 340	20 208	3 923	3 888	235	−277	218	12	1 090	261	829
1972	96.7	62 762	20 239	3 398	4 055	73	−279	173	29	135	−722	857
1973	103.4	65 497	21 609	3 504	4 674	2 983	1 336	432	624	−999	−2 383	1 384
1974	101.4	64 070	21 164	3 822	4 605	1 462	1 288	361	−180	−3 591	−5 235	1 644
1975	100.0	63 192	20 817	3 522	3 841	−1 925	−1 221	−249	−100	−1 855	−3 236	1 381
1976	102.9	63 320	20 489	3 345	3 926	261	316	131	13	−1 137	−3 589	2 452
1977	104.8	62 732	19 738	3 573	4 325	1 051	442	266	29	289	−1 709	1 998
1976 2nd qtr	102.8	15 785	5 137	828	972	−34	−29	−10	−67	−313	−949	636
3rd qtr	103.3	15 884	5 168	849	1 005	173	99	81	46	−416	−1 132	716
4th qtr	104.0	15 927	4 997	856	1 014	211	260	17	27	−329	−958	629
1977 1st qtr	103.7	15 619	4 794	851	1 030	475	235	82	117	−495	−973	478
2nd qtr	104.6	15 495	5 025	879	1 044	336	97	179	4	−297	−762	465
3rd qtr	105.2	15 777	4 965	910	1 103	−7	−6	−80	−59	574	31	543
4th qtr	105.7	15 841	4 954	932	1 149	247	116	85	−33	507	−5	512
1978 1st qtr	105.9	16 361	5 015	920	1 169	324	38	81	62	−313	−608	295
2nd qtr	107.6	16 373	5 024	960	1 180	386	272	−62	128	183	−150	333
3rd qtr		16 686 pe		970	1 168		69	9	54	−56	−281	225
% change last 2 qtrs on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.2	+2.7	+1.2	+4.2	+1.3							
on a year earlier	+2.5	+5.7	+2.2	+7.9	+9.4							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and earnings					Labour (UK)			Visible trade (volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Average gross earnings of all employees (GB, all industries and services covered)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Export	Import
						% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	On a balance of payment basis	
	at 1975 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages	(not seasonally adjusted)				(old series)				at 1975 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1975	1975	1971 16,296	thousands	Jan. 1974		1975	1975	Jan. 1970	thousands		thousands	1975 19,463	1975 22,699
1971	99.8	97.4	100.0	108.5	80.0	9.4	23.2	47.6	118.7	775.8	3.4	130.9	85.4	85.7
1972	102.0	100.0	105.3	138.6	85.7	7.1	24.2	50.1	134.0	854.9	3.7	147.3	85.2	95.3
1973	109.5	108.4	110.3	137.1	93.5	9.1	55.8	66.6	152.1	611.0	2.6	307.0	97.8	108.7
1974	105.1	106.5	109.0	102.8	108.5	16.0	86.3	81.9	179.1	599.7[1]	2.6[1]	302.7[1]	104.3	109.7
1975	100.0	100.0	106.7	97.2	134.8	24.2	100.0	100.0	226.6	929.0	3.9	150.0[1]	100.0	100.0
1976	102.0	101.4	106.5	104.7	157.1	16.5	127.0	117.3	261.9	1 269.8[1]	5.4[1]	120.4[1]	109.8	105.7
1977	105.8	102.9	103.6	107.1	182.0	15.8	145.6	140.6	288.5	1 378.1	5.8	155.6[1]	118.9	107.1
1977 1st qtr	105.6	103.9	103.3	104	174.1	16.5	144.8	133.0	280.0	1 329.5	5.6	..	115.8	109.4
2nd qtr	105.5	102.4	102.5	103	181.9	17.4	148.8	139.6	285.3	1 340.6	5.6	157.7	118.0	109.6
3rd qtr	106.3	103.3	104.3	112	184.7	16.5	146.5	143.8	288.3	1 414.6	5.9	151.9	124.4	106.6
4th qtr	105.9	102.1	104.4	110	187.4	13.1	142.2	145.8	300.4	1 427.8	6.0	160.1	117.6	102.7
1978 1st qtr	107.1	102.5	106.3	129	190.6	9.5	140.2	149.2	310.8	1 409.4	5.9	187.7	120.0	114.1
2nd qtr	111.1	105.0	108.0	130	195.8	7.7	146.3	151.8	329.0	1 372.7	5.7	210.3	122.5	110.4
3rd qtr	110.6	104.8	110.9	132	199.2	7.8	144.9	154.7		1 380.5 p	5.8	213.0	126.1	116.0
1977 Oct	105.6	101.8	102.7	116	186.5	14.1	143.7	145.3	295.8	1 431.5	6.0	156.0	119.0	101.4
Nov	105.6	101.7	103.1	108	187.4	13.0	142.0	145.7	300.5	1 429.6	6.0	159.4	115.1	98.5
Dec	106.4	102.8	106.9	104	188.4	12.1	141.0	146.3	304.8	1 422.3	6.0	165.0	118.8	108.1
1978 Jan	106.9	102.4	104.9	125	189.5	9.9	139.4	148.3	306.3	1 419.2	5.9	180.3	111.7	114.4
Feb	107.4	102.2	106.8	120	190.6	9.5	139.1	149.2	311.2	1 409.0	5.9	187.0	127.5	111.1
Mar	107.1	102.9	107.0	142	191.8	9.1	142.0	150.0	314.8	1 400.0	5.9	195.8	120.9	116.7
Apr	111.4	105.5	106.7	132	194.6	7.9	145.1	150.9	325.7	1 387.1	5.8	203.7	126.1	104.4
May	110.1	103.7	108.4	124	195.7	7.7	146.8	151.9	327.2	1 366.4	5.7	209.9	119.5	114.8
Jun	111.7	105.9	108.7	133	197.2	7.4	147.0	152.7	334.0	1 364.7	5.7	217.4	122.0	111.9
Jul	111.1	105.2	111.4	108	198.1	7.8	145.8	153.8	332.7	1 371.4	5.7	211.0	127.1	116.1
Aug	110.9	105.2	111.8	146	199.4	8.0	144.2	154.8	333.2	1 392.1	5.8	209.3	125.2	111.2
Sep	109.8 p	104.0 p	109.5	144	200.2	7.8	144.8 p	155.6 p	337.8 p	1 378.3	5.8	218.7	125.9	120.7
Oct			109½ p	131	201.1	7.8	145.7 p	156.4 p		1 359.6	5.7	228.4	128.2 p	111.8 p
Nov										1 338.9 p	5.6	231.3		
% change latest 3 months														
on prev. 3 months	−0.4	−0.2	+0.7	+15.3	+1.6		−1.1	+1.8	+1.7	−1.2		+6.4	+3	+½
on a year earlier	+4.0	+1.5	+6.4	+24.2	+7.9		−0.1	+7.7	+16.0	−5.1		+46.6	+3	+11

p Provisional pe 2nd preliminary e Estimate [1] Average of available months

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Capital expenditure of the manufacturing, distributive and service industries: third quarter

Manufacturing industry

The upward trend from the second quarter of 1976 in capital investment by manufacturing industry continues: the provisional estimate for the third quarter is £970 million at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, 1 per cent higher than the latest estimate for the second quarter. In the first three quarters of the year the volume of investment was £2,850 million a rise of 8 per cent above the same period last year.

The results of the department's latest investment intentions survey, published in *Trade and Industry* on 6 October, indicated that the volume of investment in 1978 would be 10 to 11 per cent higher than in 1977. An increase between the third and fourth quarters of some 10 per cent is necessary if the lower end of the expectations range is to be realised.

Investment by type of asset in the third quarter rose by 1 per cent in each of the three assets. Over the first three quarters compared with the same period last year the volume of investment rose in plant and machinery by 9 per cent and in new building work by 8 per cent. Investment in vehicles fell by 4 per cent.

Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)

On the basis of provisional estimates, the capital expenditure of the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) in the third quarter of 1978 was about £1,168 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, 1 per cent lower than the outcome for the previous quarter. Over the first three quarters of 1978, investment by these industries was about 11 per cent greater than that in the corresponding period of the previous year. Expenditure on new building work was 7 per cent higher, on vehicles, 12 per cent more, and on plant and machinery, 13 per cent greater.

The realisation of the investment intentions survey estimate of a year-on-year increase for 1978 of 8 to 9 per cent would imply a 1 per cent rise between the third and fourth quarters.

Shipping industry

The provisional estimate of investment by the shipping industry in the third quarter of 1978 is £63 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted. This is somewhat higher than the result for the previous quarter, but this is a fluctuating series. Over the first three quarters of 1978, the investment by the shipping industry was only about 60 per cent of the corresponding total in 1977.

Table 1 **Fixed capital expenditure at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted of manufacturing, distributive and service industries**

£ million

		Analysis by industrial sectors			Analysis by type of asset		
Period	Total	Manufacturing industries	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Shipping industry	New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1966	6 523	3 497	2 825	201	2 434	1 075	3 015
1967	6 680	3 412	2 985	283	2 439	1 150	3 091
1968	7 386 (7 232) [1]	3 642 (3 549)	3 262 (3 251) [1]	483 (433) [1]	2 510	1 431 (1 381) [1]	3 446 (3 342) [1]
1969	7 763 (7 917) [1]	3 898 (3 991)	3 478 (3 489) [1]	387 (437) [1]	2 716	1 386 (1 436) [1]	3 661 (3 765) [1]
1970	8 470	4 196	3 669	605	2 766	1 603	4 101
1971	8 413	3 923	3 888	602	2 870	1 546	3 997
1972	8 249	3 398	4 055	796	2 585	1 891	3 774
1973	8 997	3 504	4 674	818	2 740	2 097	4 160
1974	9 112	3 822	4 605	685	2 656	2 010	4 446
1975	7 929	3 522	3 841	565	2 158	1 590	4 181
1976	7 601	3 345	3 926	329	1 993	1 552	4 056
1977	8 296	3 573	4 325	398	1 998	1 768	4 530
1972							
1st qtr	2 047	901	965	181	653	431	963
2nd	2 069	841	1 016	211	650	478	941
3rd	2 024	829	1 015	180	632	466	926
4th	2 110	827	1 059	224	650	516	944
1973							
1st qtr	2 304	878	1 167	259	708	571	1 026
2nd	2 168	845	1 157	166	683	471	1 015
3rd	2 224	912	1 158	154	697	483	1 044
4th	2 300	869	1 192	239	652	573	1 076
1974							
1st qtr	2 300	951	1 224	124	713	468	1 119
2nd	2 269	948	1 160	161	668	494	1 107
3rd	2 267	948	1 117	202	651	529	1 086
4th	2 276	975	1 104	197	625	518	1 133
1975							
1st qtr	2 076	942	967	167	572	438	1 065
2nd	2 027	901	967	159	562	405	1 061
3rd	1 957	850	967	140	526	385	1 047
4th	1 868	830	940	99	498	362	1 008
1976							
1st qtr	1 840	813	936	92	508	367	965
2nd	1 854	828	972	54	496	362	996
3rd	1 975	849	1 005	121	498	442	1 035
4th	1 932	856	1 014	62	491	380	1 061
1977							
1st qtr	1 988	851	1 030	107	476	437	1 075
2nd	2 024	879	1 044	101	470	445	1 109
3rd	2 111	910	1 103	98	516	451	1 144
4th	2 174	932	1 149	93	535	436	1 203
1978							
1st qtr	2 156	920	1 169	68	503	438	1 215
2nd	2 191	960	1 180	52	533	422	1 236
3rd	2 201	970	1 168	63	523	442	1 235

The figures given above cover a wide sector of the economy, accounting – after exclusion of dwellings – for some 48 per cent of all UK gross domestic fixed capital formation in 1976. The scope of manufacturing and the distributive and service industries is defined in the notes at the end of the article, and falls very largely in the private sector of the economy, although some public sector elements are included as appropriate (notably the British Steel Corporation, in manufacturing industry). Exploration and development work in the North Sea (order II is excluded.)

[1] After allowing for expenditure, brought forward into 1968 from 1969 to secure the higher rate of investment grants which ended on 31 December 1968: estimated at £93 million for manufacturing industry. £11 million for distributive and service industries, and £50 million for shipping. The estimate for shipping is particularly uncertain because of the erratic nature of this industry's capital expenditure, while that for the distributive and service industries is uncertain because of the smallness of the effect.

Note

The estimation of changes in the volume of capital expenditure (as distinct from changes at current prices) is subject to greater error when the rate of price increases is varying and this should be borne in mind in using the figures.

Inquiries: Manufacturing industry, 01-215 3175/3176. Distributive and service industries, 01-215 3345.

Notes to tables

Capital expenditure comprises expenditure on vehicles (including ships) and plant and machinery less receipts from sales of these assets, and on new building work.

The analysis by industry group follows the standard industrial classification revised 1968 edition:

Manufacturing orders III to XIX

Distributive trades order XXIII

Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812, 831, 832 (except leasing by finance houses and similar businesses)

Retail MLH 820, 821

Other industries order XX (construction): XXII (transport and communication) excluding 701 – railways, 706 – port and inland water transport, 707 – air transport and 708 – postal services and telecommunications: XXIV (insurance, banking, finance and business services) including leasing by finance houses and similar businesses and excluding Trustee Savings Banks; XXV (professional and scientific services) excluding 872 – educational services and 874 – medical and dental services; and XXVI (miscellaneous services).

SIC orders I (agriculture, forestry and fishing), II (mining and quarrying), XXI (gas, electricity and water), and XXVI (public administration and defence) are completely excluded.

The estimates with the exception of those for manufacturing industry in table 2, are shown to the nearest £m but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in tables 2 and 3, because of the margin of error involved in the quarterly seasonal adjustments. Also, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the total and the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

See also footnotes to table 1.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Eighth floor, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Table 2 Fixed capital expenditure of manufacturing industry at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total all manufacturing industries	Analysis by industry group: Food, drink and tobacco	Food [1]	Drink and tobacco [1]	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals	Iron and steel	Non-ferrous metals	Engineering, shipbuilding and metal goods: Instrument and electrical engineering [1]	Other	Vehicles	Textiles leather and clothing	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1970	4 196.4	503.8			176.5	785.6	318.1	200.0	807.5		434.2	314.3	262.8	393.6	1 000.2	222.0	2 974.2
1971	3 922.5	505.3			251.9	683.6	467.6	131.8	708.9		274.9	265.0	214.7	418.8	905.2	222.0	2 795.3
1972	3 397.8	519.4			214.9	492.2	439.7	77.3	640.8		179.2	217.0	194.3	423.0	738.0	239.4	2 420.4
1973	3 504.1	297.4	269.6		86.1	389.3	347.1	63.3	263.7	508.9	259.3	314.5	225.6	479.3	738.7	260.1	2 505.3
1974	3 822.0	318.8	254.4		92.6	440.1	416.0	78.3	299.4	553.7	315.9	336.7	249.0	467.1	727.1	273.6	2 821.3
1975	3 521.9	285.1	181.0		111.3	545.5	513.2	77.7	258.3	501.9	269.8	233.4	210.8	333.9	639.9	199.9	2 682.1
1976	3 345.3	268.9	168.3		90.1	556.0	585.2	51.2	254.0	468.1	247.9	170.9	177.9	306.8	513.9	239.7	2 591.7
1977	3 572.6	360.5	217.3		75.4	622.3	451.1	61.0	304.8	502.6	287.2	150.8	173.3	366.3	547.1	285.8	2 739.7
1973																	
3rd	911.7	71.6	65.8		30.2	94.1	97.6	16.8	64.6	135.8	68.2	85.8	56.3	124.9	192.2	66.0	653.5
4th	869.1	77.6	72.0		−20.9	93.4	88.5	17.0	69.0	134.3	70.2	86.3	56.2	125.5	188.6	66.0	614.5
1974																	
1st qtr	951.1	84.3	68.3		21.0	100.6	89.1	18.2	71.5	144.7	79.2	86.6	58.3	129.3	191.6	68.4	691.1
2nd	948.3	76.5	71.3		20.8	103.1	97.4	21.2	73.8	134.0	79.9	87.2	63.7	119.4	182.1	69.2	697.0
3rd	947.5	80.5	61.9		23.6	108.4	95.9	19.4	76.6	138.4	81.1	85.3	62.9	113.5	174.8	69.8	702.9
4th	975.1	77.5	52.9		27.2	128.0	133.6	19.5	77.5	136.6	75.7	77.6	64.1	104.9	178.6	66.2	730.3
1975																	
1st qtr	941.7	76.5	50.5		27.4	140.2	111.7	30.4	71.9	136.1	75.5	67.5	58.5	95.5	176.7	54.3	710.7
2nd	900.8	72.9	46.7		30.1	140.7	123.6	15.0	67.3	133.8	70.5	59.4	53.0	87.8	167.6	47.5	685.7
3rd	849.9	69.0	34.7		32.5	138.3	135.5	16.6	58.4	122.6	61.3	53.8	52.7	74.5	155.9	47.8	646.2
4th	829.5	66.7	49.1		21.3	126.3	142.4	15.7	60.7	109.4	62.5	52.7	46.6	76.1	139.7	50.3	639.5
1976																	
1st qtr	813.0	63.6	38.3		27.8	125.7	154.6	14.0	63.3	109.3	52.5	47.6	46.3	70.0	135.0	53.6	624.4
2nd	827.8	64.3	35.9		22.5	137.0	155.7	12.0	60.0	116.3	62.7	43.4	45.9	72.1	126.3	60.7	640.8
3rd	848.7	69.9	47.2		19.8	144.9	147.6	12.0	63.5	114.5	63.9	41.0	43.5	80.9	126.9	62.3	659.5
4th	855.8	71.1	46.9		20.0	148.4	127.3	13.2	67.2	128.0	68.8	38.9	42.2	83.8	125.7	63.1	667.0
1977																	
1st qtr	851.2	81.8	52.1		15.5	142.0	124.9	12.6	69.3	119.6	64.2	39.2	42.2	87.8	128.2	70.0	653.0
2nd	879.1	92.4	57.5		18.8	150.8	111.4	14.8	73.4	125.1	64.2	38.3	42.3	90.1	134.4	75.5	669.2
3rd	910.2	94.1	58.0		18.0	163.3	102.1	17.0	83.2	128.8	74.4	35.7	44.6	91.0	139.3	69.2	701.7
4th	932.1	92.2	49.7		23.1	166.2	112.7	16.6	78.9	129.1	84.4	37.6	44.2	97.4	145.2	71.1	715.8
1978																	
1st qtr	920.1	89.3	71.4		22.4	171.4	85.2	15.2	88.4	128.8	78.6	35.3	48.9	85.2	140.9	68.7	710.5
2nd	959.7	103.8	58.0		30.1	176.5	85.6	16.7	90.5	127.5	104.1	32.8	48.8	85.3	145.2	68.8	745.7
3rd	970.4														146.2	69.5	754.7

[1] These columns represent the division of the columns 'food, drink and tobacco, engineering, shipbuilding and metal goods', formerly shown. This split is not available for years 1970 to 1972.

Table 3 Fixed capital expenditure in the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total	Analysis by industry group: Wholesale distribution	Retail distribution	Other industries [2]	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1968	3 262 (3 251) [1]	345	539	2 377 (2 366) [1]	1 640	751	870 (859) [1]
1969	3 478 (3 489) [1]	332	552	2 594 (2 605) [1]	1 710	794	974 (985) [1]
1970	3 669	365	547	2 757	1 752	803	1 114
1971	3 888	384	582	2 923	1 959	743	1 187
1972	4 055	405	685	2 966	1 841	893	1 322
1973	4 674	396	790	3 488	1 997	1 034	1 644
1974	4 605	438	778	3 390	1 922	1 064	1 620
1975	3 841	362	672	2 808	1 509	838	1 494
1976	3 926	337	666	2 923	1 469	1 002	1 455
1977	4 325	370	750	3 205	1 437	1 101	1 787
1973							
1st qtr	1 167	103	192	872	527	250	390
2nd	1 157	98	197	862	504	245	409
3rd	1 158	95	206	858	504	268	386
4th	1 192	100	196	896	462	271	459
1974							
1st qtr	1 224	118	190	917	520	278	426
2nd	1 160	107	192	861	484	267	408
3rd	1 117	112	186	819	475	260	382
4th	1 104	101	211	793	443	258	403
1975							
1st qtr	967	98	158	711	394	221	353
2nd	967	92	167	708	392	201	374
3rd	967	87	171	709	367	201	399
4th	940	85	175	680	357	215	368
1976							
1st qtr	936	82	164	689	371	227	338
2nd	972	83	182	706	367	252	353
3rd	1 005	86	160	759	369	263	372
4th	1 014	86	160	769	361	261	392
1977							
1st qtr	1 030	81	184	765	347	263	420
2nd	1 044	92	183	769	332	274	439
3rd	1 103	97	197	809	374	287	442
4th	1 149	101	186	862	385	277	487
1978							
1st qtr	1 169	90	201	878	361	304	504
2nd	1 180	92	206	874	386	306	489
3rd p	1 168				376	312	479

[1] See footnote to table 1. [2] Including leasing, on the basis of the ownership of assets.

Table 4 Fixed capital expenditure at current prices of manufacturing, distributive and service industries

£ million

Period	Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Shipping industry
1967	2 861	1 485	1 236	140
1968	3 304	1 639	1 418	247
1969	3 629	1 822	1 589	217
1970	4 294	2 130	1 799	364
1971	4 648	2 187	2 078	384
1972	4 971	2 044	2 373	553
1973	6 071	2 347	3 090	635
1974	7 360	3 067	3 682	611
1975	7 929	3 522	3 841	565
1976	8 841	3 958	4 497	386
1977	11 033	4 862	5 611	560
1973				
1st qtr	1 455	555	734	166
2nd	1 378	521	738	118
3rd	1 464	612	743	109
4th	1 775	659	875	242
1974				
1st qtr	1 673	693	890	90
2nd	1 684	688	871	125
3rd	1 848	776	899	173
4th	2 155	910	1 022	223
1975				
1st qtr	1 895	860	893	142
2nd	1 890	832	920	138
3rd	1 989	869	972	148
4th	2 155	961	1 056	138
1976				
1st qtr	2 034	918	1 020	96
2nd	1 999	893	1 053	53
3rd	2 274	997	1 130	146
4th	2 534	1 150	1 293	92
1977				
1st qtr	2 491	1 106	1 263	122
2nd	2 498	1 101	1 284	114
3rd	2 792	1 233	1 414	145
4th	3 251	1 421	1 651	180
1978				
1st qtr	3 018	1 322	1 584	112
2nd	3 016	1 346	1 584	86
3rd	3 218	1 449	1 633	136

Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks: third quarter

Provisional figures indicate that the level of stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers rose by about £130 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the third quarter. This increase follows larger increases in the previous three quarters.

Manufacturing industry

It is provisionally estimated that manufacturers' stocks increased by about £70 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted in the third quarter of 1978. This was the fourth successive quarterly increase in total stocks – and within it of finished goods and work in progress – although considerably smaller than the revised rise of £270 million in the second quarter. Stocks of finished goods are estimated to have increased by about £50 million and work in progress by £30 million. Stocks of materials and fuel have fallen for six successive quarters, though recently by reducing amounts: £10 million in the third quarter.

The total stocks/output ratio at the end of September rose to 99.5 from the revised June level of 99.0 due to the increase in the stock level and a small fall in manufacturing output. The materials and fuel ratio was unchanged while the work in progress and finished goods ratios rose.

Distributive industries

Provisional estimates indicate that wholesalers' stocks increased by about £10 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the third quarter of 1978, following the large reduction in the previous quarter. Retailers' stocks increased by about £50 million, at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the third quarter.

Notes

1 The manufacturers' stocks figures have been revised to take account of new seasonal adjustment factors.

2 The estimation of physical change in stocks is subject to greater uncertainty when the rate of price increase is varying and this should be borne in mind when using the figures.

Inquiries: Manufacturing industry, 01-215 3175/5215. Distributive industries, 01-215 3345.

Monthly Digest of Statistics

A compendium, compiled by the Central Statistical Office, of basic information across a wide range of 19 different subjects including population, employment and price statistics, social services, production and output, energy, construction, transport, catering, home and overseas finance, and the weather. It contains mostly runs of monthly and quarterly estimates for at least two years and annual figures for several more.

Price £1.95. ISSN 0308-6666. Annual subscription including supplement of definitions and postage £28. 26. From HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH.

Notes to tables 1 to 4

1 The analysis by industry group follows the standard industrial classification (1968 edition):
Manufacturing orders III to XIX.
Distributive trades order XXII:
Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812, 831, 832 (except leasing by finance houses)
Retail MLH 820, 821.

2 Book values exclude VAT. Purchase tax payable on retailer's stock prior to the second quarter of 1973.

3 The estimates are shown to the nearest £ million but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in tables 2 and 3 because of the margin of error involved in quarterly seasonal adjustments. Differences between totals and the sum of constituent parts are due to rounding.

r Revised. p Provisional.

Table 1 Value of physical increase in industry's stocks at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1977	27 716	19 995	4 540	3 181
1967	229	119	31	79
1968	814	530	160	124
1969	789	600	131	58
1970	805	616	202	−13
1971	−47	−277	218	12
1972	−77	−279	173	29
1973	2 392	1 336	432	624
1974	1 469	1 288	361	−180
1975	−1 570	−1 221	−249	−100
1976	460	316	131	13
1977	737	442	266	29
1973				
1st qtr	638	384	115	139
2nd	729	341	74	314
3rd	531	337	119	75
4th	493	274	123	96
1974				
1st qtr	78	54	87	−63
2nd	662	453	156	53
3rd	654	686	62	−94
4th	74	94	56	−76
1975				
1st qtr	−447	−258	−84	−105
2nd	−432	−230	−107	−95
3rd	−481	−476	−45	40
4th	−210	−257	−13	60
1976				
1st qtr	37	−13	43	7
2nd	−106	−29	−10	−67
3rd	226	99	81	46
4th	304	260	17	27
1977				
1st qtr	434	235	82	117
2nd	280	97	179	4
3rd	−145	−6	−80	−59
4th	168	116	85	−33
1978				
1st qtr	181	38	81	62
2nd	338	272	−62	128
3rd (p)	132	69	9	54

Table 2 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by manufacturing industry at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Analysis by industry group							Analysis by type of asset		
	All manufacturing industries	Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Metal manufacture	Engineering, shipbuilding, vehicles and metal goods	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manufacturing industries	Materials and fuel	Work in progress	Finished goods
Level of stocks at end 1977	19 995	2 334	2 462	1 805	9 724	1 433	2 237	7 277	7 321	5 397
1967	119	57	15	−82	219	−68	−22	−29	245	−96
1968	530	16	174	73	112	59	97	220	199	112
1969	600	55	181	−31	124	134	138	194	43	364
1970	616	17	103	98	400	—	−2	234	215	166
1971	−277	17	39	14	−311	−29	−8	−291	−170	184
1972	−279	34	3	−89	−162	−95	30	−88	58	−248
1973	1 336	152	251	60	595	75	203	829	544	−38
1974	1 288	261	403	7	459	19	138	658	53	577
1975	−1 221	−360	−285	21	−207	−96	−295	−926	−272	−23
1976	316	16	97	236	−80	−3	51	−65	222	159
1977	442	160	−84	−37	275	30	98	−18	196	264
1973										
1st qtr	384	6	60	53	162	11	91	218	190	−25
2nd	341	28	87	6	163	17	41	247	99	−6
3rd	337	68	95	12	94	26	42	192	161	−15
4th	274	50	9	−11	176	21	30	172	94	8
1974										
1st qtr	54	92	273	−152	−74	−29	−57	336	−138	−145
2nd	453	135	35	29	135	34	87	63	148	243
3rd	686	94	154	92	231	28	89	274	108	304
4th	94	−60	−58	39	168	−14	20	−15	−65	175
1975										
1st qtr	−258	−95	−107	93	−13	−30	−107	−292	−77	110
2nd	−230	−120	−49	16	24	−32	−69	−156	−45	−28
3rd	−476	−105	−89	−70	−95	−36	−81	−338	−90	−48
4th	−257	−39	−41	−17	−123	2	−38	−140	−60	−57
1976										
1st	−13	−14	12	−7	−7	22	−20	−89	42	34
2nd	−29	−12	26	48	−83	−14	7	−47	38	−20
3rd	99	−20	19	96	−24	−7	35	48	38	14
4th	260	61	41	99	33	−4	30	23	105	131
1977										
1st qtr	235	17	9	35	120	13	41	91	123	21
2nd	97	42	−47	−3	22	34	50	−38	−69	204
3rd	−6	76	−56	−25	9	−9	—	−23	−33	50
4th	116	25	11	−43	124	−8	7	−48	175	−11
1978										
1st qtr	38	54	37	−87	−7	5	38	−26	17	48
2nd	272	107	−22	−8	209	−13	−3	−15	128	158
3rd (p)	69							−10	32	46

Table 3 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by wholesalers at 1975 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total wholesalers	General wholesale distributors	Dealers in coal, builders materials etc	Dealers in industrial materials and machinery
Level of stocks at end 1977	4 540	2 890	349	1 302
1967	31	17	1	14
1968	160	107	9	44
1969	131	81	3	47
1970	202	48	5	149
1971	218	181	−3	40
1972	173	147	29	−3
1973	432	433	4	−6
1974	361	213	15	133
1975	−249	−255	−26	32
1976	131	117	12	2
1977	266	158	−3	111
1973				
1st qtr	115	108	−16	23
2nd	74	80	15	−21
3rd	119	124	5	−9
4th	123	122	1	1
1974				
1st qtr	87	91	−6	3
2nd	156	101	13	43
3rd	62	9	—	53
4th	56	13	9	34
1975				
1st qtr	−84	−104	1	19
2nd	−107	−108	−12	13
3rd	−45	−24	−10	−11
4th	−13	−19	−5	11
1976				
1st qtr	43	43	19	−18
2nd	−10	45	−13	−41
3rd	81	26	9	47
4th	17	4	−3	15
1977				
1st qtr	82	55	8	20
2nd	179	45	14	121
3rd	−80	4	−44	−41
4th	85	54	20	11
1978				
1st qtr	81	63	−37	55
2nd	−62	−48	19	−33
3rd (p)	9			

Table 4 Increase in the book value of manufacturers' and distributors' stocks

£ million

	Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1977	39 613	28 771	6 425	4 417
1967	280	180	47	51
1968	874	581	138	152
1969	985	766	134	113
1970	1 302	1 038	207	102
1971	764	471	264	133
1972	949	618	298	114
1973	3 699	2 425	793	481
1974	6 335	4 978	938	419
1975	3 054	2 259	348	447
1976	6 200	4 591	1 143	466
1977	5 094	3 578	898	618
1973				
1st qtr	681	459	121	101
2nd	749	515	138	96
3rd	1 031	627	289	115
4th	1 237	824	244	169
1974				
1st qtr	1 771	1 469	243	59
2nd	1 834	1 388	264	182
3rd	1 532	1 221	239	72
4th	1 197	899	192	106
1975				
1st qtr	973	894	18	61
2nd	612	559	15	38
3rd	530	218	158	154
4th	940	588	158	194
1976				
1st qtr	1 124	877	192	55
2nd	1 219	1 014	214	−9
3rd	1 666	1 091	407	168
4th	2 191	1 610	329	252
1977				
1st qtr	2 104	1 527	281	296
2nd	1 334	936	273	125
3rd	696	408	222	66
4th	959	707	121	131
1978				
1st qtr	683	487	91	105
2nd	1 358	1 077	60	222
3rd (p)	909	478	243	188

Table 5 Relationship of manufacturers' stocks to manufacturing production

Index numbers – fourth quarter 1974 = 100 Seasonally adjusted

Period (quarters)	Total stock levels (at 1975 prices)	Production (with 1975 net output weights)	Ratio of stocks to production: Total	Materials and fuel	Work in progress	Finished goods
1973						
1st qtr	89.0	102.1	87.2	82.9	92.4	86.9
2nd	90.7	103.2	87.9	84.9	92.7	85.8
3rd	92.4	104.2	88.6	86.3	93.9	84.6
4th	93.7	104.2	89.8	88.3	95.2	84.8
1974						
1st qtr	94.0	99.7	94.2	96.4	97.6	85.8
2nd	96.2	104 1	92.4	93.1	95.5	86.8
3rd	99.5	103.2	96.4	97.0	97.7	93.5
4th	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1975						
1st qtr	98.7	99.1	99.6	97.3	99.8	103.1
2nd	97.6	94.7	103.0	99.8	103.7	107.3
3rd	95.3	93.7	101.6	96.5	103.5	107.3
4th	94.0	94.3	99.6	94.1	102.0	105.5
1976						
1st qtr	94.0	94.6	99.3	92.7	102.3	105.9
2nd	93.8	97.1	96.6	89.8	100.2	102.8
3rd	94.3	97.2	97.0	90.3	100.6	102.9
4th	95.6	98.5	97.0	89.3	100.7	104.2
1977						
1st qtr	96.7	99.2	97.5	89.8	101.8	103.9
2nd	97.2	97.8	99.4	90.7	102.3	109.6
3rd	97.2	98.6	98.5	89.6	100.9	109.7
4th	97.7	97.5	100.2	90.1	104.6	110.7
1978						
1st qtr	97.9	97.8	100.0	89.4	104.5	111.3
2nd	99.3	100.2	99.0	87.1	103.8	111.8
3rd (p)	99.6	100.0	99.5	87.2	104.4	112.9

Manufacturers' stocks in September

Monthly manufacturers' stocks are given for the first time in 1975 prices.

It is estimated that manufacturers' stocks were unchanged at 1975 prices, seasonally adjusted, in September 1978. Stocks of materials and fuel, work in progress and finished goods are all thought to have been at the same level as in August.

Monthly figures from January 1978, adjusted to agree with the quarterly figures published left, are shown below:

Stock changes

£ million, 1975 prices seasonally adjusted

1978	
January	−10
February	+120
March	−70
April	+190
May	+160
June	−80
July	+90
August	−20
September	—

Inquiries: 01-215 3176/5215.

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Engineering industries: indices of production up to July

Output of combined engineering industries for the latest three monthly period (June to August) was marginally higher than in the preceding three months reflecting minor increases in production in all three major sectors of engineering.

The level of mechanical engineering production has been relatively flat over the last 18 months and the small rise shown in the latest three monthly movement is insufficient to determine if the pattern has changed. After an improvement in the second quarter output of the instrument engineering sector now shows signs of slackening, although the three monthly movement remains positive. The rising trend in electrical engineering which began in the last half of 1977 shows no sign of faltering.

The performance of the individual industries within the mechanical engineering sector over the latest three months has been mixed, with the number of industries showing falls when compared with the previous three months counterbalanced almost exactly by those showing increased production. Noteworthy changes include a welcome increase in the output of the 'textile machinery' industry (albeit from a very depressed level), and substantial falls suffered by the 'agricultural machinery' and 'other non-electrical machinery' industries.

Within instrument engineering a large increase in the output of the 'watches and clocks' industry was offset to some extent by a moderate fall in the 'photographic and copying equipment' industry, the major components of instrument engineering remaining constant.

A majority of the electrical engineering industries showed increases in the June-August period amongst which the performance of the 'computers' industry was outstanding. The 'records and tapes' industry, however, experienced a substantial setback following a promising figure for the second quarter.

Inquiries: On the article and the statistics: Mr I. P. Tutt, Branch EcS3A, Department of Industry, Room 618, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 5770. Requests for quarterly indices for past years: Mr P. Coulson, Branch 5, Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AG, tel. 01-233 7239.

Indices of production for engineering industries

Seasonally adjusted volumes indices

		1975 = 100			1976	1977				1978			
MLH		Weight (percentage)	1976	1977 p	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	Jun-Aug av. [1]	Per cent change Jun-Aug average on previous 3 months
3310	Agricultural machinery	1.07	96.6	93.6	99.8	99.0	88.7	94.6	92.2	90.0	95.9	87.6	−8
3320	Machine tools	2.94	83.3	80.0	82.5	82.0	78.8	79.3	80.0	81.3	79.4	79.3	−1
3331	Pumps	1.33	107.6	110.9	114.0	112.3	114.6	112.7	103.9	104.4	113.3	115.3	+4
3332	Valves	1.87	91.2	96.3	96.7	98.0	88.6	104.6	94.2	94.6	96.1	96.8	+2
3333/4	Compressors	1.90	97.9	101.4	99.9	100.3	98.8	101.5	104.7	104.6	102.2	102.1	−1
3340	Industrial engines	1.54	100.9	109.3	97.6	112.4	104.8	108.6	111.3	105.5	109.4	107.0	−1
3350	Textile machinery	1.89	69.6	46.7	58.3	52.0	43.3	42.8	48.8	41.0	41.5	43.3	+7
3360	Construction equipment	2.99	99.1	100.0	98.0	110.3	95.6	98.1	96.2	89.7	96.9	97.2	+3
3370	Mechancial handling equipment	3.72	90.1	88.0	90.5	92.5	90.3	88.8	80.6	84.3	89.0	89.1	+2
3380	Office machinery	1.25	95.9	97.2	99.7	97.1	94.9	97.2	99.4	70.2	71.4	[2]	[2]
3391	Mining machinery	1.54	93.1	87.2	87.4	81.4	85.6	85.9	95.8	106.6	101.2	[2]	[2]
3392	Printing and paper machinery	1.05	86.7	86.6	86.0	87.2	86.3	84.1	88.9	83.4	[2]	[2]	[2]
3393/4	Refrigerating and space-heating machinery	2.40	94.6	93.6	94.8	98.0	95.2	93.2	87.9	96.9	98.4	96.4	−2
3395/6	Weighing machinery and power tools	0.75	99.3	101.6	98.5	100.8	104.1	94.4	107.3	117.0	113.1	[2]	[2]
3397/8	Food processing machinery packaging machinery	1.62	93.6	90.0	87.4	90.6	89.2	97.4	82.7	86.5	82.6	[2]	[2]
3399	Other non-electrical machinery	3.79	96.5	96.5	91.1	110.2	93.3	90.2	92.2	103.4	91.9	88.3	−9
3414	Constructional steelwork	3.51	93.1	79.0	86.4	80.8	78.7	80.4	76.1	77.1	84.8	82.9	—
3415	Industrial plant and fabricated steelwork	9.59	101.9	101.2	100.7	99.7	103.9	100.6	100.6	97.0	97.2	[2]	[2]
3491	Ball, roller and plain bearings	1.76	99.2	97.9	102.7	102.3	98.3	96.3	94.8	95.2	95.8	92.8	−3
	Other mechanical engineering	7.64	95.6	95.5	94.4	97.0	94.6	97.6	92.8	98.9	96.4	[2]	[2]
	Mechanical engineering	54.14	95.1	93.2	93.6	95.8	92.6	93.1	91.3	92.1	92.8	93.5	+1
3510	Photographic and copying equipment	0.42	99.7	103.1	115.2	101.1	105.4	105.7	100.3	135.9	134.0	130.5	−5
3520	Watches and clocks	0.51	91.3	90.5	92.3	84.5	88.2	98.1	91.4	87.2	96.8	106.3	+15
3530	Surgical instruments	1.42	91.5	89.2	93.0	91.9	88.3	89.1	87.6	87.5	86.5	86.3	–
3540	Scientific and industrial instruments	4.80	98.4	102.0	102.8	98.5	103.2	102.5	103.7	102.5	110.3	108.1	–
	Instrument engineering	7.15	96.6	98.7	100.8	96.3	99.3	99.7	99.4	100.4	106.0	104.9	+1
3610	Electrical machinery	6.81	97.6	102.1	98.1	100.1	101.3	104.2	102.6	109.1	103.8	108.0	+2
3620	Wires and cables	2.64	101.6	107.5	108.5	109.5	107.9	108.8	103.3	103.0	105.6	104.7	–
3630	Telecommunications	4.62	86.8	72.2	76.9	72.3	71.8	73.7	71.2	66.7	74.0	73.6	+3
3640	Electronic components	5.18	106.6	121.4	114.6	120.2	122.0	120.5	123.0	133.6	135.7	137.7	+2
3651	Records and tapes	0.59	93.1	95.7	90.4	105.9	92.6	89.1	95.2	100.1	104.6	93.9	−11
3652	Broadcasting equipment	1.73	92.4	89.7	100.5	87.2	84.4	96.5	90.7	93.4	112.0	112.1	+5
3660	Computers	3.20	103.4	122.4	108.7	107.5	116.4	132.9	133.0	143.0	139.2	155.3	+12
3670	Electronic capital goods	5.37	104.5	116.0	108.0	114.3	113.7	114.5	121.4	119.2	117.4	118.6	+1
3680	Domestic electrical appliances	3.10	92.2	93.2	97.0	100.5	88.3	93.8	90.1	86.8	94.8	96.6	+5
3691	Electric parts for vehicles	2.15	97.3	89.7	95.8	94.5	98.2	75.1	91.0	99.1	90.1	88.7	−5
3692/3	Batteries	1.19	99.2	98.4	95.7	101.3	88.5	99.0	104.6	101.5	113.6	115.0	+5
3694	Lamps and other electrical	2.14	96.4	98.0	98.8	100.6	98.7	98.1	94.8	107.3	108.9	105.8	−3
	Electrical engineering	38.71	98.5	102.7	100.5	102.0	101.3	103.4	104.1	107.6	108.9	11.1	+2
	Combined engineering	100.00	96.5	97.3	96.8	98.3	96.4	97.6	96.8	98.7	100.0	101.2	+2

[1] Averages if for other than a calendar quarter should not be compared with those in the preceding column since the estimates are not independent. [2] Not available owing to insufficient response.
p Provisional.

Wool textile industry: output in August and exports in third quarter

The volume of production in the wool textile industry (as measured by the seasonally-adjusted index of production) in August 1978 was at the same level as August 1977. Statistics issued by the Wool Industry Bureau of Statistics show that in the period January to August 1978 woven fabrics (excluding blankets) were 4 per cent lower than the period January to August 1977; deliveries of worsted yarns (excluding semi-worsted yarn) were 6 per cent lower. Production of wool and hair tops was 9 per cent less and that of man-made fibre tops was 11 per cent less.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Carpet industry sales in August

The daily rate of carpet manufacturer's sales by value in August 1978 at current prices was provisionally estimated to have been 19 per cent more than in August 1977 assuming 22 working days in August 1978 and 22 working days in August 1977. In the three months ended August 1978 the daily rate of manufacturers' sales was provisionally estimated to have been 17 per cent more than in the corresponding period 12 months ago assuming 64 working days in the period ended August 1978 and 63 working days in the period ended August 1977. The index numbers which are of manufacturers' sales by value, have been adjusted for the length of the working month, but not for non-statutory holidays or other seasonal factors. The wholesale price index of carpets is shown as a guide to the movement in prices.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017.

Index of carpet manufacturers' sales 1975 = 100

	Index of manufacturers' sales at current prices	Wholesale price index
1970	100	59.9
1971	115	62.0
1972	135	65.1
1973	166	73.4
1974	179	86.7
1975	202	100.0
1976	234	115.7
1977	255	134.7
1977		
2nd qtr	239	134.1
3rd	230	135.8
4th	292	139.2
1978		
1st qtr	270	145.8
2nd	280	147.0
1977		
May	227	134.5
June	241	134.5
July	208	134.8
August	202	135.5
1978		
May	281	146.8
June	272	147.3
July	251	148.4
August	240	152.5

Output in the wool textile industry

	Consumption	Production			Deliveries			
	Raw wool (clean weight)	Tops		Woollen yarn [1]	Worsted yarn [2]	Woven fabrics (excluding blankets) [1]		Blankets [3]
		Wool and hair	Man-made fibres			Woollen	Worsted	
	million kg					million sq m		
1968	177.5	96.6	36.4	147.4	98.2	135.8	110.6	27.3
1969	174.5	92.0	42.2	142.2	100.5	130.1	109.2	26.9
1970	153.1	79.7	44.6	129.4	97.6	115.5	99.8	24.6
1971	141.2	66.2	36.6	130.7	93.0	101.9	83.9	28.5
1972	152.3	75.1	45.9	130.9	101.6	99.8	83.7	28.8
1973	136.6	62.2	55.9	135.2	100.0	104.0	88.4	30.6
1974	112.6	43.9	54.8	122.5	87.2	92.1	82.6	28.1
1975	110.6	46.8	44.4	112.1	75.5	76.8	74.6	24.7
1976	119.7	56.5	47.2	108.0	80.8	73.6	69.4	22.8
1977	113.5	52.3	45.3	105.7	81.2	78.8	71.3	22.2
1976								
1st qtr	31.0	13.8	11.6	29.4	20.6	16.9	18.2	6.5
2nd	30.5	14.5	12.1	27.9	20.3	19.6	16.9	4.4
3rd	27.6	13.4	10.6	23.7	18.2	19.4	16.9	5.2
4th	30.6	14.6	13.0	27.0	21.7	17.9	17.5	6.5
1977								
1st qtr	32.4	15.3	12.6	29.0	23.1	19.6	18.8	6.7
2nd	29.8	13.9	11.9	27.2	20.2	21.1	18.1	4.8
3rd	24.5	11.1	10.4	23.0	17.5	19.7	16.4	4.4
4th	26.8	12.0	10.4	26.5	20.4	18.4	18.0	6.2
1978								
1st qtr	29.5	13.6	10.6	27.7	20.8	18.5	17.3	5.8
2nd	28.4	12.8	10.8	27.2	19.6	21.6	16.8	4.8
1977								
January	10.3	5.0	4.0	9.0	7.2	5.8	5.9	2.4
February	10.2	4.8	4.0	9.1	7.5	6.2	6.0	2.2
March	11.9	5.5	4.6	10.8	8.4	7.6	6.9	2.1
April	9.6	4.6	3.8	8.6	6.4	6.6	5.7	1.7
May	11.1	5.2	4.7	10.0	7.6	7.4	6.6	1.6
June	9.1	4.1	3.4	8.6	6.2	7.1	5.8	1.5
July	7.9	4.2	3.9	6.5	5.6	6.0	5.2	1.1
August	7.6	2.9	2.9	8.4	5.4	6.5	5.2	1.6
September	9.0	4.0	3.6	8.2	6.5	7.2	6.0	1.7
October	9.1	3.9	4.4	9.2	7.1	6.9	6.4	2.0
November	9.7	4.5	3.6	9.5	7.4	6.7	6.5	2.1
December	8.0	3.6	2.4	7.8	5.9	4.8	5.1	2.1
1978								
January	9.7	4.5	3.0	9.3	6.9	6.0	5.8	2.2
February	9.5	4.5	3.1	8.8	6.7	5.9	6.0	1.5
March	10.3	4.6	4.5	9.6	7.2	6.6	5.5	2.1
April	9.7	4.4	3.2	9.2	6.9	6.8	5.5	1.8
May	9.3	4.2	4.1	8.8	6.4	6.9	5.4	1.5
June	9.4	4.2	3.5	9.2	6.3	7.9	5.9	1.5
July	7.8	4.1	3.9	6.6	5.3	6.3	5.0	1.3
August	..	2.7	2.4	8.2	6.0	5.9	5.1	1.6

Notes to table

[1] Estimated. [2] From January 1969 includes semi-worsted yarn: previously yarn of this type was not separately distinguished and the small quantities involved were divided between the worsted yarn headings. In August deliveries of semi-worsted yarn were 0.8 million kg. [3] Woven woollen fabrics include fabrics which are mainly woollen by weight of components and, similarly, woven worsted fabrics include fabrics which are mainly worsted by weight of components.

Exports of wool textile products

	Total	Wool tops [1]		Yarns		Woven fabrics [2]		Other wool textile products [3]
	£m	£m	Mn kilos	£m	Mn kilos	£m	Mn sq m	£m
1968	114.80	23.94	25.44	20.44	14.34	66.14	69.42	4.28
1969	125.41	26.55	26.01	23.32	16.08	71.08	69.46	4.45
1970	117.25	20.38	21.08	23.37	15.85	70.00	62.51	3.50
1971	106.82	16.28	18.66	23.28	15.88	62.57	54.30	4.70
1972	118.49	19.80	20.51	27.28	18.13	66.48	56.32	4.93
1973	172.32	38.06	21.36	36.95	18.28	91.08	60.39	6.24
1974	180.44	26.15	16.15	41.56	15.56	105.84	52.80	6.89
1975	165.22	28.53	16.19	37.42	13.83	92.08	43.33	7.20
1976	219.07	50.55	20.71	56.03	17.04	104.28	44.58	8.21
1977	294.82	56.92	17.43	77.53	18.02	151.29	51.81	9.08
1975								
1st qtr	36.93	5.19	4.04	8.33	3.07	21.79	10.43	1.62
2nd	42.17	6.97	3.30	9.36	3.54	24.27	10.77	1.57
3rd	41.80	7.98	4.47	8.66	3.17	23.76	11.86	1.40
4th	44.32	8.39	4.38	11.07	4.05	22.26	10.27	2.61
1976								
1st qtr	43.48	10.96	5.06	11.13	4.04	19.52	9.30	1.87
2nd	56.27	13.35	5.34	13.70	4.36	27.41	11.65	1.82
3rd	55.38	11.64	4.42	13.57	3.98	28.22	12.21	1.95
4th	63.94	14.59	5.89	17.64	4.66	29.14	11.42	2.57
1977								
1st qtr	71.46	18.02	5.43	20.04	5.02	30.89	11.91	2.51
2nd	75.23	15.83	4.84	19.89	4.65	37.18	12.74	2.33
3rd	75.83	11.69	3.52	17.81	3.94	43.46	14.28	2.87
4th	72.30	11.38	3.64	19.79	4.41	39.76	12.88	1.37
1978								
1st qtr	71.00	12.98	4.10	19.11	4.29	36.76	11.62	2.15
2nd	80.81	12.85	3.73	18.46	4.18	47.05	14.64	2.45
3rd	74.34	12.54	3.56	15.28	3.38	44.05	13.60	2.47

[1] From the first quarter 1976 figures are not strictly comparable with previous periods. [2] Excluding mechanical cloths from January 1970. [3] Wool or other animal hair, carded or combed; felts, wholly or partly of wool; blankets; travelling rugs; woollen and worsted felts; and other made-up textile articles, not individually specified in the export list, of sheeps' or lambs' wool or fine animal hair. Other commodities of, or containing, wool or animal hair not included in the table: sheeps' or lambs' wool and fine or coarse animal hair not carded or combed; noils, rags and other waste; carpets; garments; smallwares; knitted or crocheted fabrics; woven fabrics predominantly of man-made fibres containing sheeps' or lambs' wool or fine animal hair.

Man-made fibres: deliveries in third quarter, production in September and analysis of production in third quarter

Deliveries of staple fibre [1]

Thousand metric tonnes

		Home					
	Total	Total	Cotton spinning	Wool spinning	Flax spinning	Other systems and sundries	Exports [2]
1968	282.4	173.1	52.3	58.2	26.3	36.3	109.3
1969	299.3	169.2	51.1	51.5	28.0	38.6	130.1
1970	329.4	191.4	57.6	57.1	31.5	45.2	138.1
1971	338.7	185.9	59.6	50.1	29.3	46.9	152.9
		Home					
	Total	Total	Cotton spinning	Wool spinning		Other systems and sundries	Exports [2]
1972	363.9	186.4	49.5	33.4		103.5	177.5
1973	434.8	235.4	62.8	56.0		116.7	199.4
1974	346.1	190.4	51.4	51.1		87.9	155.7
1975	283.2	158.8	39.4	50.1		69.3	124.4
1976	351.3	184.6	47.0	53.0		84.6	166.7
1977	340.6	171.5	41.4	46.5		83.6	169.1
1976							
1st qtr	83.2	44.4	11.5	12.5		20.5	38.8
2nd	86.7	46.7	11.9	13.0		21.8	40.0
3rd	78.4	41.3	10.8	12.9		17.5	37.1
4th	103.1	52.2	12.8	14.7		24.7	50.9
1977							
1st qtr	105.0	48.7	12.5	13.1		23.1	56.3
2nd	84.1	43.4	11.1	12.6		19.7	40.7
3rd	78.2	37.2	7.6	10.5		19.1	41.0
4th	73.2	42.1	10.2	10.3		21.6	31.1
1978							
1st qtr	86.7	44.9	8.5	11.1		25.3	41.8
2nd	93.0	45.1	9.8	12.6		22.7	48.0
3rd	87.4	41.3	9.5	10.9		20.8	46.2

[1] The classification of end uses was revised in January 1972, and the figures for deliveries to individual industries from the first quarter 1972 are not comparable with those for earlier years. [2] The figures refer to deliveries from the industry direct for export and may differ from the totals recorded as exports in the monthly Overseas Trade Statistics.

Deliveries of continuous filament yarns [1]

Thousand metric tonnes

		Home							
	Total	Total	Broad weaving	Carpets and rugs	Weft knitting	Warp knitting	Industrial purposes (tyres, etc)	Other purposes	Exports as yarn [2]
1968	238.4	188.9	35.3	4.7	54.9	32.0	52.2	9.8	49.4
1969	242.7	193.6	33.7	5.5	51.9	35.3	58.8	8.4	49.1
1970	254.8	198.1	28.2	7.1	63.7	38.0	53.3	7.8	56.7
1971	261.4	198.7	25.3	8.7	69.9	41.4	43.5	9.9	62.7
		Home							
	Total	Total	Broad weaving	Carpets and rugs	Warp knitting	Industrial purposes (tyres, etc)	Other purposes	Textured or texturing for all purposes other than carpets or industrial	Exports as yarn [2]
1972	270.1	198.7	25.1	13.4	40.4	40.8	10.0	69.0	71.4
1973	313.6	227.5	25.8	19.4	46.6	45.4	13.0	77.4	86.1
1974	259.4	188.6	22.3	14.1	35.8	35.1	11.9	69.3	70.8
1975	246.9	185.8	21.7	17.3	33.1	35.4	10.5	67.8	61.1
1976	271.2	192.4	19.5	22.2	31.1	38.3	14.8	66.6	78.8
1977	239.8	167.9	18.9	16.9	26.0	35.5	10.8	59.7	72.0
1976									
1st qtr	71.4	50.7	5.0	5.9	9.1	10.5	3.7	16.6	20.6
2nd	66.6	46.7	4.9	4.8	7.5	9.3	3.4	16.7	19.9
3rd	62.5	43.5	4.4	5.2	6.7	8.5	3.3	15.5	19.0
4th	70.7	51.4	5.2	6.3	7.8	10.0	4.4	17.8	19.3
1977									
1st qtr	64.9	45.9	5.2	5.2	7.5	9.4	3.1	15.5	19.1
2nd	60.3	41.7	4.8	3.7	6.6	9.2	2.7	14.7	18.6
3rd	54.7	37.9	4.3	3.3	5.5	8.4	2.2	14.2	16.8
4th	59.9	42.4	4.6	4.8	6.3	8.5	2.9	15.3	17.6
1978									
1st qtr	63.4	41.2	4.9	4.2	6.1	8.0	2.2	15.9	22.2
2nd qtr	61.7	41.9	4.7	3.9	6.0	8.0	2.4	16.8	19.8
3rd	56.1	36.9	4.1	3.6	5.3	6.5	2.2	15.1	17.8

[1] The classification of end uses was revised in January 1968 and the figures for deliveries to individual industries 1968 to 1971 might not be fully comparable with those for earlier years. From January 1972 a further reclassification was introduced: deliveries of textured yarns and yarns for texturing, which were previously included in the figures for individual industries, are shown separately from the first quarter 1972. [2] The figures refer to deliveries from the industry direct for export and may differ from the totals recorded as exports in the monthly Overseas Trade Statistics.

Source: Man-made Fibres Producers Committee.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017/6474.

Deliveries of man-made fibres in the third quarter

Total deliveries of man-made fibres in the third quarter of 1978 were 8 per cent more than in the third quarter of 1977. Deliveries of continuous filament yarns to the home trade was 3 per cent less than in the third quarter of 1977, while deliveries of staple fibre were 11 per cent more.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Production of man-made fibres in September

In the three months ended September 1978 the volume of production of man-made fibres, seasonally adjusted was estimated to have been at the same level as in the three months ended June 1978. Total production by weight of man-made fibres in January-September 1978 was 3 per cent higher than in January-September 1977, output of continuous filament decreased by 4 per cent and staple fibre increased by 7 per cent.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Man-made fibre production

Thousand metric tonnes

	Total	Continuous filament (singles)	Staple fibre
1968	539.1	241.8	297.4
1969	553.9	252.5	301.5
1970	599.4	257.6	341.9
1971	613.1	276.4	336.7
1972	626.5	264.0	362.5
1973	730.8	305.6	425.3
1974	627.6	271.0	356.6
1975	562.5	246.5	316.0
1976	618.4	270.7	347.7
1977	551.8	239.3	312.5
1976			
1st qtr	159.8	70.0	89.8
2nd	157.5	69.7	87.7
3rd	140.4	62.4	78.0
4th	160.7	68.6	92.1
1977			
1st qtr	154.9	67.2	87.7
2nd	150.8	63.9	86.8
3rd	131.0	55.2	75.8
4th	115.1	53.0	62.1
1978			
1st qtr	150.1	60.6	89.5
2nd	156.2	62.2	94.0
3rd	141.6	56.8	84.8
1977			
July	49.5	20.8	28.7
August	37.6	16.0	21.6
September	43.9	18.4	25.5
October	43.5	18.2	25.4
November	36.8	17.9	18.9
December	34.8	17.0	17.8
1978			
January	44.2	19.1	25.1
February	47.6	19.0	28.7
March	58.2	22.5	35.7
April	48.3	19.1	29.2
May	58.5	22.7	35.8
June	49.3	20.3	29.0
July	45.9	18.8	27.1
August	48.2	19.3	28.9
September	47.5	18.7	28.8

Source: Production stats: Man-made Fibres Producers Committee. Index of production: Department of Industry.

Index of the volume of production 1975 = 100

1973	129
1974	111
1975	100
1976	110
1977	98

	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1976		
1st qtr	114	111
2nd	113	109
3rd	100	106
4th	112	112
1977		
1st qtr	111	108
2nd	107	103
3rd	91	97
4th	82	82
1978		
1st qtr	106	102
2nd	108	105
3rd	97	104
1977		
January	102	106
February	116	109
March	116	111
April	110	105
May	100	100
June	110	104
July	101	107
August	78	93
September	94	92
October	88	86
November	83	80
December	75	81
1978		
January	92	95
February	107	100
March	117	112
April	102	97
May	118	118
June	106	99
July	94	100
August	97	116
September	100	97

Cotton industry: production in September

Statistics issued by the Textile Statistics Bureau show that in January-September 1978 the amount of cloth woven was 4 per cent lower than in January-September 1977. Production of single yarn decreased by 7 per cent and doubled yarn decreased by 16 per cent.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 6474.

Statistical News

This quarterly publication, prepared by the Central Statistical Office, is designed to keep the user of statistics in touch with all that is going on in the world of official statistics. Each issue contains notes on current developments as well as several articles treating selected topics in greater depth. A list of new surveys reported to the CSO's survey control unit is also included.

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Analysis of production of man-made fibres in the third quarter

Production by weight of synthetic fibres in the third quarter of 1978 was 14 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1977 while production of viscose and acetate fibres was 1 per cent lower. Within the total for synthetic fibres, production of continuous filament yarns was 3 per cent more and staple fibre 24 per cent more. Under the heading 'viscose and acetate' production of continuous filament yarns increased by 2 per cent and staple fibre decreased by 3 per cent with the third quarter 1977.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Analysis of man-made fibre production

Thousand metric tons

	Total		Continuous filament		Staple fibre	
	Synthetic	Viscose + acetate	Synthetic	Viscose + acetate	Synthetic	Viscose + acetate
1968	268.4	270.8	144.3	97.5	124.1	173.3
1969	291.4	262.5	155.9	96.6	135.5	166.0
1970	336.9	262.5	166.6	90.9	170.3	161.6
1971	357.3	255.7	191.2	85.2	166.1	170.6
1972	373.9	252.6	196.4	67.6	177.5	185.0
1973	453.9	277.0	233.0	72.6	220.9	204.4
1974	396.1	231.5	200.3	70.7	195.8	160.8
1975	361.1	201.4	184.0	62.5	177.1	138.9
1976	414.2	204.2	200.1	70.6	214.1	133.6
1977	358.8	193.0	170.7	62.6	182.1	130.4
1976						
1st qtr	104.2	55.6	52.0	18.0	52.2	37.6
2nd	105.1	52.4	52.0	17.7	53.1	34.7
3rd	97.8	42.6	46.2	16.2	51.6	26.4
4th	107.2	53.5	49.9	18.6	57.3	34.8
1977						
1st qtr	102.7	52.2	49.3	17.9	53.4	34.3
2nd	98.9	51.9	47.8	16.1	51.1	35.8
3rd	82.7	48.3	40.9	14.3	41.8	34.0
4th	74.5	40.6	38.7	14.3	35.8	26.3
1978						
1st	99.6	50.4	45.0	15.5	54.6	34.9
2nd	108.3	47.8	46.8	15.4	61.5	32.4
3rd	93.9	47.7	42.2	14.6	51.7	33.1

The heading 'Viscose + acetate' includes triacetate.

Production in the cotton industry

Annual totals and weekly averages

	Single yarn [1]		Doubled yarn		Woven cloth	
	Cotton yarn [2]	Spun man-made and mixture inc. waste	Cotton yarn	Other	Cotton	Man-made fibre and mixtures
	million kg				million m	
1968	171.2	67.5	49.9	52.0	668.2	507.3
1969	166.2	73.2	46.8	60.9	661.5	538.1
1970	158.7	77.4	43.2	57.3	627.6	484.3
1971	133.0	83.3		85.0	559.1	479.8
1972	121.4	81.7		75.4	513.0	469.8
1973	115.4	92.5		82.1	453.2	502.3
1974	101.3	87.7		74.7	409.5	505.3
1975	94.4	76.4		68.4	405.4	503.0
1976	106.9	76.1		69.4	374.5	492.9
1977	98.1	77.6		69.8	368.3	497.5
1977						
Jan	2.2	1.7		1.5	7.7	10.3
Feb	2.3	1.7		1.6	7.9	10.7
Mar [3]	2.2	1.8		1.6	7.9	10.7
Apr	1.7	1.4		1.2	6.3	8.8
May	2.3	1.9		1.6	7.9	11.1
June [3]	1.5	1.2		1.1	6.9	8.8
July	1.6	1.2		1.2	4.3	7.5
August [3]	1.9	1.5		1.4	7.6	9.5
Sep	1.5	1.2		1.2	6.3	9.0
Oct	2.0	1.6		1.4	7.9	10.5
Nov [3]	2.0	1.6		1.4	7.8	10.2
Dec	1.4	1.1		1.0	5.9	7.6
1978						
Jan	2.0	1.5		1.3	7.7	10.0
Feb	2.0	1.6		1.3	8.0	10.0
Mar [3]	1.6	1.2		1.1	6.8	8.2
Apr	2.0	1.6		1.3	8.2	9.4
May [3]	1.8	1.6		1.2	7.5	8.7
Jun	1.4	1.3		1.0	8.2	8.8
July	1.6	1.3		1.1	4.6	6.6
August [3]	1.8	1.6		1.2	7.9	8.6
Sep	1.5	1.3		1.0	6.5	8.2

[1] Spun in cotton industry. [2] Including yarns wholly of cotton waste and mixture yarns of cotton and cotton waste. [3] Average of five weeks.

Patents endorsed 'licences of right'

Under section 46 of the Patents Act 1977 the register was noted 'licences of right' in respect of the following patents on the date specified:

15 November 1978

1297567 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
Process and apparatus for the continuous preparation of photographic emulsions

1317738 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
An apparatus for adding and distributing a fluid in other media

1429614 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
Anti-colour fogging agents for colour photographic materials

1332120 EMI Ltd
Improvements in or relating to lathes

1457257 EMI Ltd
A method of operating a photomultiplier tube

1281929 Jac Howard Karlan
Improvements in or relating to bottle closures

1505232 Jac Howard Karlan
A combination vibration isolator and shock absorber

1494999 EMI Electrola GmbH
Improvements in or relating to extruders

1504370 Instrumentation Laboratory SpA
Apparatus for the serial analysis of blood samples

1319221 Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd
Method and apparatus of testing the rate of flow of material

Any person who claims that the proprietor of the patent is, and was at the time of entry, precluded by a contract in which the claimant is interested from granting licences under the patent may, within three months after the making of the relevant entry, apply to the Comptroller on Patents Form 31/77 for cancellation of the entry.

I. J. G. Davis, Comptroller

Hosiery and other knitted goods: index of production in September

In the three months ended September 1978 the volume of production of hosiery and other knitted goods, seasonally adjusted (included knitted fabrics), was provisionally estimated to have been 5 per cent lower than in the three months ended September 1977.

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent years. The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months, but not for other seasonal variations.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Hosiery and other knitted goods, including warp knitting 1975 = 100

1973	105	
1974	103	
1975	100	
1976	106	
1977	106	
	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1976		
1st qtr	92	102
2nd	99	104
3rd	107	107
4th	124	109
1977		
1st qtr	97	107
2nd	98	104
3rd	108	108
4th	121	105
1978		
1st qtr p	92	104
2nd p	98	103
3rd p	104	103
1977		
January	95	112
February	99	104
March	97	105
April	94	104
May	100	104
June	100	104
July	99	108
August	102	106
September	123	108
October	131	103
November	127	103
December	104	110
1978		
January p	87	102
February p	99	105
March p	91	104
April p	100	107
May p	92	100
June p	102	102
July p	90	98
August p	105	108
September	116	102

p Provisional.

Advertisements for 'Trade and Industry'

All advertisement inquiries and bookings should be addressed to the Advertisement Department at 13 Great James Street, London WC1, telephone 01-242 9478.

Unemployment and vacancies: mid-November

The total number of unemployed persons in Great Britain on 9 November 1978 was 1 330 794 representing 5.7 per cent of the total number of employees. This total includes 52 865 school leavers under 18 not yet employed.

The seasonally adjusted series shows that the number of unemployed in Great Britain excluding the school leavers was 1 281 500 (5.5 per cent of all employees), a decrease of 18 200 since 12 October. In the last three months there has been a decrease on average of 16 500 a month.

Of the total unemployed in Great Britain, 204 000 had been unemployed for four weeks or less. It is estimated that about 1 003 000 were unemployed for more than four weeks, and were aged under 60.

The average number joining the unemployment register in the three months ending October was 387 000 per month compared with 391 000 in the three months ending July and 358 000 in the three months ending April 1978. The average numbers leaving the register in these three periods were 395 000, 394 000 and 375 000 per month respectively.

Unemployment (on 9 November)

	Great Britain		United Kingdom	
	Number	Change since Oct	Number	Change since Oct
Unemployed, excluding school leavers	1 277 929	−10 599	1 334 969	−12 546
School leavers	52 865	−23 514	57 042	−24 945
Total unemployed	1 330 794	−34 113	1 392 011	−37 491
(Percentage of all employees)	(5.7)	(−0.1)	(5.8)	(−0.2)
Seasonally adjusted				
Unemployed, excluding school leavers	1 281 500	−18 200	1 338 900	−20 700
(Percentage of all employees)	(5.5)	(−0.1)	(5.6)	(−0.1)

Inflow of vacancies

The average inflow of vacancies in the three months ending October was 238 000 per month compared with 229 000 in the three months ending July and 213 000 in the three months ending April 1978. The average outflows in the three periods were 232 000, 231 000 and 203 000 per month respectively.

The unemployment figures exclude adult students aged 18 and over, who are registered for temporary employment during a vacation and who intend to return to full-time education when the new term begins. There were none recorded on 9 November.

The unemployment figures do not include temporarily stopped workers – that is, those who had a job on the day of the count but were temporarily suspended from work on that day and were registered in order to claim benefits. These numbered 7293 in Great Britain and 8235 in the United Kingdom – representing a decrease on 9 November of 2138 in Great Britain and a decrease of 1671 in the United Kingdom.

In the week ending 16 September, 31 000 operatives in manufacturing industries in Great Britain were on short-time working. Of these, 9000 were stood off for the whole week and 22 000 for part of the week. The figure compares with a total of 25 000 on short-time in the week ending 12 August. The short-time working figures include temporarily stopped workers.

Notified vacancies

The number of vacancies notified to employment offices in Great Britain remaining unfilled on 2 November was 230 219, a decrease of 9678 since last month. The number of vacancies notified to careers offices was 27 404, a decrease of 1853 since last month.

The seasonally adjusted series shows that the number of vacancies notified to employment offices in Great Britain was 229 900, an increase of 2900 since October 1978.

The number of people assisted under these schemes is at present about 265 000. The actual effect on the unemployed register however will be less than this because of a number of factors; for example, some people do not sign the register when they become unemployed.

From April 1975 until 31 March 1978, expenditure incurred on the special measures programme amounted to £560 millions, and in the current financial year the estimated expenditure on special measures is £410 million; with further expenditure arising from the present measures in 1979-80. The European social fund has contributed towards the cost of the community industry scheme and training measures.

Consumers' expenditure in the third quarter

The second preliminary estimate of consumers' expenditure in the third quarter of 1978 is £16,686 million (revalued at 1975 prices and seasonally adjusted), an upward revision of £38 million from the first estimate issued on 19 October.

The revised estimate represents an increase of about 2 per cent in consumers' expenditure between the second and third quarters of 1978 and is about 5¾ per cent above the level of the third quarter of 1977.

Between the second and third quarters there were increases in expenditure on food, fuel and light, clothing and footwear, and durable household goods. However, expenditure on motor vehicles is estimated to have fallen slightly.

Consumers' expenditure
At 1975 prices. Seasonally adjusted

	£ million
1977	
1st qtr	15 619
2nd	15 495
3rd	15 777
4th	15 841
1978	
1st qtr	16 361
2nd	16 373
3rd	16 686 (second preliminary estimates)

Motor vehicle production in October

Car production in the four weeks ending 28 October of 80 233 units (20 058 per week) was 22 per cent below the October 1977 level. In the 10 months to October 1978, car production was 1 per cent lower than in the same period last year. Production for export fell by 8 per cent while that for the home market rose by 4 per cent.

Commercial vehicle production of 26 298 units (6575 per week) was 23 per cent below the October 1977 level. Production in the first ten months to October was 2 per cent below that in the corresponding period last year. Production for export fell by 13 per cent while production for the home market rose by 10 per cent.

Car production

Car production in October of 80 700 units was 26 per cent below the average monthly level in 1977. Output in the three months August to October was the same as that in the preceding three months; within the total, production for export rose by 12 per cent while production for the home market fell by 8 per cent.

Commercial vehicles

Commercial vehicle production in October of 25 747 units was 22 per cent below the average monthly level in 1977. In the period August to October, output fell by 14 per cent compared with the preceding three months, output for the home market and that for export both falling by 14 per cent.

Table 1 Car and commercial vehicle production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and unassembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery-operated road vehicles are excluded.

	No of weeks	Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
		For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1969	53	892 758	824 315	1 717 073	32 398	272 998	192 778	465 776	8 788
1970	52	918 109	722 857	1 640 966	31 557	267 407	190 125	457 532	8 799
1971	52	1 027 462	714 478	1 741 940	33 499	268 278	187 928	456 206	8 773
1972	52	1 307 881	613 430	1 921 311	36 948	272 649	135 470	408 119	7 848
1973	52	1 142 216	605 105	1 747 321	33 602	257 574	159 049	416 623	8 012
1974	52	937 932	596 187	1 534 119	29 502	232 373	170 193	402 566	7 742
1975	52	735 532	532 164	1 267 696	24 379	194 319	186 386	380 705	7 321
1976	53	768 481	564 968	1 333 449	25 159	182 554	189 503	372 057	7 020
1977	52	753 195	562 777	1 315 972	25 307	201 445	196 823	398 268	7 659
1978	52								
1977									
1st qtr	13	180 813	149 558	330 371	25 413	51 826	57 676	109 502	8 423
2nd	13	209 665	161 386	371 051	28 542	49 299	51 945	101 244	7 788
3rd	13	166 116	104 554	270 670	20 821	44 036	41 832	85 868	6 605
4th	13	196 601	147 279	343 890	26 452	56 284	45 370	101 654	7 820
1978									
1st qtr	13	210 561	147 930	358 491	27 576	54 949	48 733	103 682	7 976
2nd	13	223 890	138 932	362 822	27 909	61 944	50 322	112 266	8 636
3rd	13	160 389	100 892	261 281	20 099	47 612	34 620	82 232	6 326
4th	13								
1977									
January	4	66 119	54 069	120 188	30 047	16 932	17 402	34 334	8 584
February	4	49 573	46 109	95 682	23 921	15 376	17 822	33 198	8 300
March	5	65 121	49 380	114 501	22 900	19 518	22 452	41 970	8 394
April	4	64 475	48 998	113 473	28 368	13 394	16 133	29 527	7 382
May	4	80 099	60 057	140 156	35 039	18 860	20 020	38 880	9 720
June	5	65 091	52 331	117 422	23 484	17 045	15 792	32 837	6 567
July	4	47 156	27 939	75 095	18 774	13 007	14 020	27 027	6 757
August	4	51 565	27 605	79 170	19 793	12 628	10 869	23 497	5 874
September	5	67 395	49 010	116 405	23 281	18 401	16 943	35 344	7 069
October	4	55 346	47 810	103 156	25 789	19 283	14 863	34 146	8 537
November	4	63 333	49 199	112 532	28 133	18 198	12 807	31 005	7 751
December	5	77 922	50 270	128 192	25 638	18 803	17 700	36 503	7 301
1978									
January	4	67 488	43 961	111 449	27 862	16 396	14 717	31 113	7 778
February	4	65 029	42 883	107 912	26 978	15 699	14 959	30 658	7 665
March	5	78 044	61 086	139 130	27 826	22 854	19 057	41 911	8 382
April	4	68 388	50 721	119 109	29 777	18 802	16 169	34 971	8 743
May	4	76 240	45 363	121 603	30 401	20 824	16 990	37 814	9 454
June	5	79 262	42 848	122 110	24 422	22 318	17 163	39 481	7 896
July	4	40 644	24 273	64 917	16 229	15 209	12 032	27 241	6 810
August	4	51 205	37 669	88,874	22 219	12 160	9 057	21 217	5 304
September	5	68 540	38 950	107 490	21 498	20 243	13 531	33 774	6 755
October	4	43 396	36 837	80 233	20 058	15 967	10 331	26 298	6 575
November	4								
December	5								

Note: From January 1978, Land-Rover estate vehicles are being recorded as commercial vehicles rather than as passenger cars. Figures for 1977 have been revised on to this basis. The number of these vehicles in 1977 was 11 848.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Eighth floor, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Table 2 Production seasonally adjusted

Monthly average — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	15.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974	78	50	128	19.3	14.2	33.5
1975	61	45	106	16.2	15.5	31.7
1976	64	47	111	15.2	15.8	31.0
1977	63	47	110	16.8	16.4	33.2
1978						
1977						
1st qtr	56	49	105	16.2	18.6	34.8
2nd	67	50	117	16.1	16.3	32.4
3rd	67	42	109	17.4	16.5	33.9
4th	61	47	108	17.5	14.3	31.8
1978						
1st qtr	68	49	117	17.5	16.2	33.7
2nd	71	42	113	20.0	15.4	35.4
3rd	65	41	106	18.9	13.8	32.7
4th						
1977						
January	63	58	121	17.6	19.1	36.7
February	52	47	99	15.4	17.9	33.3
March	54	43	97	15.6	18.6	34.2
April	70	52	122	14.6	17.6	32.2
May	69	53	122	18.1	17.8	35.9
June	63	45	108	15.7	13.5	29.2
July	64	41	105	16.8	16.6	33.4
August	66	36	102	17.6	16.7	34.3
September	70	50	120	17.8	16.1	33.9
October	55	48	103	18.1	15.2	33.3
November	58	46	104	17.1	12.8	29.9
December	70	46	116	17.1	15.0	32.1
1978						
January	65	47	112	17.2	16.3	33.5
February	68	44	112	15.9	15.2	31.1
March	69	57	126	19.5	16.9	36.4
April	71	50	121	19.5	16.8	36.3
May	66	40	106	20.2	15.2	35.4
June	75	36	111	20.2	14.3	34.5
July	57	35	92	19.9	14.3	34.2
August	66	49	115	17.1	14.0	31.1
September	73	39	112	19.7	13.0	32.7
October	44	37	81	15.1	10.6	25.7
November						
December						
Average of						
May-Jul 78	66	37	103	20.1	14.6	34.7
Aug-Oct 1978	61	42	103	17.3	12.5	29.8
Percentage change	−8	+12	N/C	−14	−14	−14

Notes to table 2: The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influences (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

British Film Fund Agency returns

The British Film Fund Agency has authorised the publication of the following information for the four weeks ended 23 September 1978:

	£
Distributors' earnings submitted	
Low-cost films:	
Eligible (after multiplying by 2½)	54 654
Not eligible for 2½ times rental	83 867
	138 521
High-cost films (including newsreels after multiplying by 2½)	1 620 622
	1 759 143
Films under 3000 ft (after multiplying by 2½)	195 257
	1 954 400
Levy collections paid to agency by HM Customs and Excise to 17 October 1978 approximately covering entertainments for the four weeks ended 23 September 1978	643 654

The eleventh interim allocation for the twenty-first year will be at the rate of 61 per cent.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 24 November 1978.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
BRITISH					
Adriatic Adventure	BR/E 39804/26/11/83	25	20 November	Rank Film Distributors Ltd	Drummer Films Ltd
The Thirty-Nine Steps	BR/E 39805/26/11/83	102	20 November	Rank Film Distributors Ltd	Media Management Ltd
Carry On Emmannuelle	BR/E 39807/26/11/83	88	21 November	Hemdale International Films Ltd	Thirtieth Film Productions Ltd
Movietone News 2581	BR/E 39605/26/11/83	6	24 November	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
COMMUNITY					
Sex Slaves	EC 39809/26/11/83	72	24 November	New Realm Distributors Ltd	Lisa Films GmbH, Munich
FOREIGN					
Speedtrap	F 39806	102	21 November	Hemdale International Films Ltd	Intertamar NV, Basle
Blue Collar	F 39808	114	23 November	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
Crazy Ridiculous American People	F 39810	87	24 November	New Realm Distributors Ltd	International Talent Marketing Ltd, Bermuda
Evil Thoughts	F 39811	80	24 November	New Realm Distributors Ltd	New Film Productions, Rome

AMENDMENT TO THE REGISTER
The number of the film 'Violette Et Francois' (F 39802), registered on 13 November 1978, has been amended to EC 39802/19/11/83 and the maker to President Films and FR3, Paris.

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(a) annually (m) monthly (q) quarterly Weekly statistics are not included

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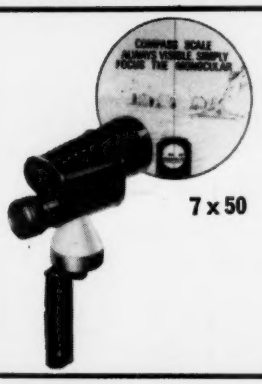

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